

# the Bullet

**Special Issue:**  
National Nightmare  
Haunts Community

Volume 75, No. 2

Mary Washington College's student newspaper since 1922.

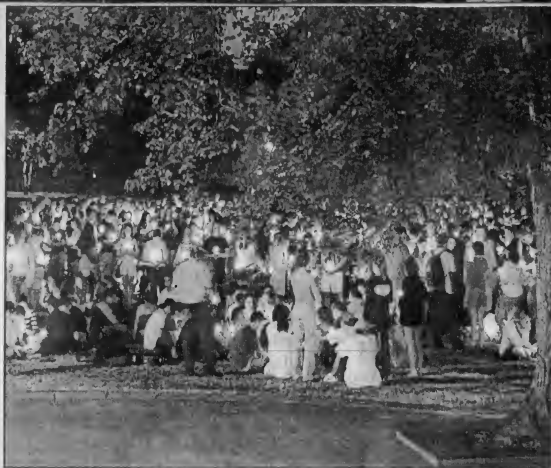
September 13, 2001

## Campus Unites In Grief



Clockwise from top left: Students console each other in Ball Circle. A sign advertising the blood drive at Spotsylvania Mall. Junior Ka Shim lights a candle at the Candlelight Vigil Tuesday night. Members of the college community grieve for victims of the terrorist attack.

Photos by Juliette Gomez



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### verbatim

*"We can't really fathom yet what it means, or what it will mean in the days and months and years to come, but it is already quite apparent that things will never again be as they were."*



File Photo

Philip Hall

# National Nightmare

## timeline

Tuesday, Sept. 11

8:45 a.m.—Hijacked passenger jet, American Flight 11, a Boeing 767 set to fly originally from Boston to Los Angeles, crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center, setting the building on fire.

9:03 a.m.—A second hijacked airliner, Flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles, crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center and exploded. Both buildings were burning.

9:30 a.m.—Bush, speaking from Florida, said the country suffered an "apparent terrorist attack."

9:40 a.m.—Air traffic nationwide was halted for the first time in U.S. history.

9:43 a.m.—A third hijacked aircraft, Flight 77, a Boeing 757 en route from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles, crashed into the Pentagon. Evacuation began immediately.

10:05 a.m.—The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

10:10 a.m.—A fourth hijacked aircraft, United Flight 93, en route from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco, crashed in Pennsylvania, southeast of Pittsburgh. No survivors.

10:10 a.m.—A portion of the Pentagon collapsed.

10:28 a.m.—The World Trade Center's north tower collapsed from the top down, releasing a tremendous cloud of debris and smoke.

10:45 a.m.—All federal office buildings in Washington were evacuated.

10:57 a.m.—New York Gov. George Pataki announced all state government offices were closed.

1:04 p.m.—Bush, speaking from Barksdale Air Force base, said that all appropriate security measures were being taken, including putting the U.S. military on high alert worldwide.

1:48 p.m.—President Bush left Barksdale Air Force base in Louisiana aboard Air Force One and flew to Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

3:55 p.m.—Giuliani said that the number of critically injured in New York City was up to 2,000 with 2,100 total injuries reported.

4:30 p.m.—The president left Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska aboard Air Force One to return to Washington.

5:20 p.m.—The 47-story Building 7 of the World Trade Center complex collapses. The evacuated building was damaged when the twin towers across the street collapsed. Other buildings in the area remained ablaze.

6:00 p.m.—Explosions were heard in Kabul, Afghanistan, where Osama bin Laden, the suspected culprit of the attacks, is located. The attack is credited to the Northern Alliance, a group fighting the Taliban in the country's ongoing civil war.

8:30 p.m.—Bush addressed the nation, saying "thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil" and asks for prayers for the families and friends of Tuesday's victims. The president says the U.S. government will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed the acts and those who harbor them. "These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve," he said.

Compiled from CNN.com

## College Copes With Tragedy

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH

News Editor

On Tuesday, college administrators emailed students and faculty in the wake of the terrorist attacks that killed thousands and destroyed part of the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon.

"We are indeed saddened by the events of this morning that appear to be the result of terrorism, and our hearts go out to those affected and their family members," the administrators wrote.

Saddened doesn't even begin to describe it.

### 'Shocked'

The terrorist attacks have left the country stunned, grief-stricken, confused and angry. At Mary Washington College, students and faculty expressed essentially the same emotions. No one knows what to do. Over the past few days, dozens of members of the community experienced fear for loved ones. This tragedy has affected every single member of the college community, and virtually everyone is expressing the same basic emotion: shock.

"I'm horrified," said Associate Professor of English Mary Rigby.

"I was pretty shocked," said senior Jennifer Barton.

"I was speechless. I thought it was like a movie, something you'd see on film. I just couldn't believe it," said junior Mike Nissim-Sabat.

"I almost fell over, just seeing the World Trade Center falling down. I couldn't believe it," said Craig Vasey, faculty president.

"I probably was just as shocked as everybody else. At first, it was just hard to believe. It took time to sink in," said Associate Professor of Mathematics Janus Konecny.

"I was mortified. You don't expect anything like that to happen in the U.S.," said senior Karen Ramsom.

"Shock...is where we all are currently," said Distinguished Professor of History Carter Hudgins.

These attacks have stunned virtually everyone around campus. Students walk with heads down and from class. An odd silence pervades the campus. Students and faculty alike look as though they could cry at any time. An atmosphere of disbelief has descended over the college.

### 'They're all dead.'

Junior Adam Miller from Long Island had an internship in the World Trade Center two summers ago. Miller worked for Clearstream

Banking, a company on the 90th floor of one of the towers.

Now, due to the terrorist attacks, the entire office he worked in is gone.

"None of the people I worked with got out of the building," Miller said. "They're all dead."

Miller said he cannot imagine having the entire office building destroyed.

"I don't really know how to react," Miller added. "I'm angry and I'm sad and I'm really friggin' pissed."

He also said that he has friends whose relatives are currently missing.

"It's just something that I thought would never happen," Miller said. "It's just very difficult. I'm just hoping and praying that everybody who is missing somebody finds them."

### 'He's real lucky'

Senior Ryan Kilarney's father is a professional firefighter in New York City who was called to assist with Tuesday's emergencies.

Kilarney knew his father was going to help and wasn't worried about him. That lasted until he heard about the collapse of the second tower.

"I knew he was there, and I got home and I heard there were firemen in the building when it collapsed," Kilarney said.

Kilarney said he heard that 300 people were in the building when it collapsed.

After hours of fear and wondering, Kilarney heard from his mother that his dad was safe. His father just barely escaped the tragedy. Others near him weren't so lucky. A fire company near him lost an entire house, which consists of 30-50 people.

"He's real lucky," Kilarney said. Kilarney added that his family lost friends from the disaster.

"Whenever I heard the numbers of firemen [who died], I shed a tear," Kilarney said. "Everything's OK for my dad, but everything is horrible for everyone else."

### Discovery

Senior Ken Jones was walking back from his class when he heard the news: terrorists



Photo Courtesy of CNN.com

The Twin Towers before they collapsed on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 11.

had attacked both the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. For Jones, whose father works at the Pentagon, this news was more than frightening.

Jones went back and called his family. No one had heard from his father.

"It kind of hit close to home, the fact that my dad was there and I didn't know what his whereabouts were," Jones said.

Jones, who is a resident assistant in Madison Hall, had to deal with his uncertainty and also cope with the needs of his residents during the crisis.

"I knew he wouldn't want me sitting around the phone waiting for him to call," Jones said. "I spent some time processing alone."

Jones also watched the day's events unfold on TV and attended an informal reflection held in Dodd Hall.

Finally, at 8 p.m., Jones received word that his father was unharmed, despite being only 200 feet from the site of the impact.

"I was relieved," Jones said. "You never think you'd be alive for something like this."

### Enduring

In the aftermath of the tragedy, no one knows what is going to happen, both to the college and to the country.

Senior Vice President for Advancement and College Relations Ron Singleton said that having the college community work together will get them through this tragedy.

"We've got 5,000 students and employees," Singleton said. "It's a large community. We're trying to share information with the campus community and be responsive to the needs of the community. We're working through this collectively."

Distinguished Professor of History Hudgins believes this event will have more of an impact on the nation than other attacks against the United States.

"The analogy is Pearl Harbor, and I think that's probably appropriate," Hudgins said. "This is way beyond the scale, in terms of life, [of] what happened at Pearl Harbor. Clearly, we're going to have to address how you and I go through life."

Curtis Ryan, associate professor of Political Science, agreed that this will have a drastic impact on U.S. life.

"There's never been anything on this scale before," Ryan said. "[The terrorism] has already passed several markers, so I think it's really making a whole new era of sorts."

Despite what changes may come, Distinguished Professor of Religion David Cain advocated silence at a Tuesday reflection held at Dodd Auditorium.

"This is not a time for words, but a time for silence," Cain said. "I invite you to join together in a time of silence, of reflections, of shared shock, of horror and of prayer."

Faculty Senate President Vasey agreed.

"People have just been overwhelmed," Vasey said. "I think we all feel silence is all we can do. When someone dies, there's not much you can say. You just endure."

### Coming Together

At noon on Tuesday, dozens of students gathered in Ball Circle, held hands and prayed. At four, about two hundred students, faculty, and administrators gathered in Dodd Auditorium for reflection and silence. At eight, over a thousand people returned to Ball Circle for a candlelight vigil.

"When we do not know what to do, we come together to share our hopelessness," Religion Professor Cain told the 4 p.m. gathering. "We come together hoping to find hope."

SGA president Ka Shim said this is one of the few positives arising from this disaster. "I think we're continuing to support each other," Shim said. "That's what we should do. We all feel the same grief."

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Phil Hall said the college community must unite for help in this crisis.

"As a college, we are a group of learners," Hall said. "This is certainly a teaching moment if there is one."

Hall added that the reason classes continued on Tuesday was so that students and faculty could bond and learn from each other. Resident Assistant Jones said he believes the campus response to the tragedy was amazing.

"It was one of the finest hours the campus has ever seen," Jones said. "Everyone came together really quickly. It was really cool."

Outside of Mary Washington College on the international level, countries are uniting to help and junior Jeremy Hube feels this also is a positive result of the tragedy.

"I do like the way most western countries will say they will help," Hube said. "I think everybody's scared now. I think everybody's afraid they could be next. Everybody's watching."

### Where Do We Go From Here?

Despite the lingering raw emotions, both faculty and students want the U.S. to be cautious in finding and punishing the guilty. Associate Professor of English Rigby said she hopes that the country does not do anything rash.

"I think we need to be careful," Rigby said. "Whatever action is taken needs to be with a cool head, rather than passion and emotion."

Senior Barton also urged caution. "I think it'd be OK to retaliate, but I don't think we should be too quick about it," Barton said.

Associate Professor of Mathematics Konecny wants justice served but does not know what the U.S. should do.

"We have to wait and find out who really did it," Konecny said. "Certainly, those people should be brought to justice. If it turns out that some state was behind it, there should be some sort of retaliation, but I'm not sure what kind."

The retaliation is what junior Huber fears more than the actual terrorist attacks.

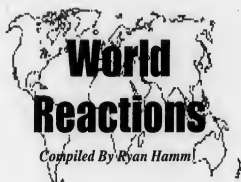
"I think I'm more scared now of our reaction," Huber said. "I think we have a tendency to overreact. It's just going to be a witch hunt."

No matter what the U.S. does in retaliation, Konecny said he feels the country should try to prevent this type of act from ever happening again.

"Every country will be vulnerable to attacks like this," Konecny said. "Certainly, measures [of prevention] should be taken, but we'll never be completely secure."

Despite the desires for retaliation, caution, and further security precautions, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Hall presented a simpler solution.

"As individuals, we must pray to our God," Hall said. "We must pray for His comfort, we must pray for our enemies, and we must pray for our country."



### Some Celebrations in the West Bank

While some Palestinian groups celebrated the terrorist acts against America in the West Bank, their leader Yasser Arafat offered his sympathy. Arafat said, "We are completely shocked. It's unbelievable. We completely condemn this very dangerous act, and I convey my condolences to the American people, to the American president and to the American administration, not in my name but in behalf of the Palestinian people." Palestinian officials said the celebrations in Ramallah in the West Bank were a minority reaction.

### Taliban Officials Deny Involvement

Afghanistan's Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Mutawakel condemned the violence in Tuesday's terrorist attacks and denied any involvement. Taliban officials also denied that Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire blamed for past terrorist attacks against American targets who is seeking sanctuary in Afghanistan, did not have anything to do with the attacks. Also, Taliban's spiritual leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, said in a statement that bin Laden was not behind the attacks. "Osama bin Laden could not be responsible," he said. "This type of terrorism is too great for one man." U.S. intelligence officials are skeptical.

# Tragedy Calls Community

By CAROLINE S. WALLINGER  
Assistant News Editor

The Mary Washington College community united Tuesday to organize events in response to terrorist attacks against the nation that left many faculty, staff and students grieving. Various groups held events including a silent vigil, moment of reflection, religious gatherings and an American Red Cross blood drive.

Immediately after hearing of the attack, senior and Student Government Association Executive Coordinator Kristy Bartle looked to find ways to help the students deal with their anguish.

"I saw right away how upset students were, so one of my first questions was how to help them," Bartle said. "I approached Dean [Bernard] Chirico to ask if a candlelight Vigil would be good or bad for affected students." Chirico, vice president for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, encouraged the Vigil so Bartle called a meeting of the SGA. Cedric Rucker, dean of Student Life and Joel Nelson, Class Council president also attended the meeting.

According to Rucker, The Honor Council, Class Council, SGA, Student Life and the Office of Student Activities and Community Services all took part in organizing the Vigil and deciding what it should be about. "They wanted the Vigil to be reflective and silent," Rucker said.

Bartle also said the group discussed the objective of the Vigil.

"We didn't want it to be a venting session for political views," Bartle said. "We didn't want it oriented toward any particular religion or religious background. We did want it to be something where every student would feel welcome and where students could reflect in their own way and feel comfortable coming together."

After the meeting, the sponsor groups distributed posters, fliers and emails and contacted churches about receiving candle donations. The Vigil took place at 8 p.m. and was, at least in Rucker's mind, a success.

"I saw faculty, staff and students of every class present," Rucker said. "I think all of those organizations did a great job planning. As soon as the meeting was over they all

came together to achieve their objective."

Another on campus event arranged on the spot for the community was a moment of togetherness and silence, held at 4 p.m. Tuesday in Dodd Auditorium. Distinguished Professor of Religion David Cain, and Philip Hall, vice president for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty led the gathering. The idea originated with Richard Hurley, executive vice president of the college, and was at first planned only for faculty.

"I was sitting in my office wondering what the college's response should be," Hurley said. "And I thought we needed to provide an opportunity for people to come together." Hurley consulted Dr. Hall and Dr. Ron Singleton, vice president for Advancement and College Relations, regarding separation of church and state.

Hall suggested a faculty member to lead a gathering.

"I immediately thought of David Cain as someone who might lead the reflection, so I talked with him over lunch and he agreed to do it, asking that I lead it with him," Hall said.

After discussions among the administrators, Hall says they decided it would be better to include students in the gathering as well. Roughly 200 people attended the event, mostly students. Hurley also noted that there was no religious aspect to the gathering other than a moment of silent prayer.

As one of the leaders of the gathering, Cain made a few remarks for how the stage and auditorium should look.

"I wanted the stage to be bare, without a podium, because I thought that it would be more meaningful and more personal if we were alone on the stage," Cain said. "I also wanted the lights to be up because we were not doing a show or performance, but a participation with all who came."

In response to the gathering, some students emailed Cain with their appreciation for his words of comfort.

"I don't know if my words were words of comfort as much as an owning a sense of helplessness and not knowing an adequate response to this nightmare," Cain said.

Various religious groups on campus organized events in response to the tragedy, including a Catholic Mass and an impromptu prayer circle in Ball Circle.

Senior Catholic Student Association member Tricia Pavlik attended the Mass. "It was a great opportunity for students to come together in support of each other as well as an opportunity to pray together for the victims of this tragedy," she said. "Prayer was the only thing that got most people through yesterday."

Community Outreach and Resources offered a shuttle from Seabcoke to the Fitness Equitation on Tuesday and Wednesday for an American Red Cross blood drive. Shuttles were cancelled Tuesday due to an overload of donors at the location.

Senior Rebecca Dewoddy attended the Vigil and supports all of the events organized on campus.

"I think it's very important that they did this because it gave campus a sense of unity and I think it was especially important for the students who had family affected by the tragedy but didn't yet have a network of friends on campus to help them through it," Dewoddy said.



Juliette Gomez/Bulletin

A student at the Silent Vigil.

## College Tries To Run Smoothly

By KEVIN HICKERSON  
Sports Editor

In the wake of the terrorist activities on Tuesday, both Mary Washington College and the James Monroe Center canceled evening classes. The athletic department and phone services were also disrupted.

In the second of two campus wide emails sent by Executive Vice President Richard V. Hurley, the college was concerned about commuting students and faculty making their way to campus.

"Evening classes for Tuesday, Sept. 11, on MWC's campus in Fredericksburg and JMC's campus in Stafford have been canceled since commuting students and faculty are having difficulty traveling on northern Virginia highways to the College," the second email by Hurley said.

Hurley believes that the students best interest was served by letting classes continue with individual need being taken into account.

"We had students from northern Virginia and New York and the last thing we wanted them to do was go to those areas if we canceled classes," Hurley said. "We as the administration have to make a judgement on the institution as a whole. There is probably no perfect answer."

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Bernard Chirico agreed with Hurley.

"We discussed whether we should cancel classes but we all agreed that it would be best to keep the class schedule because that gave the students some structure," Chirico said.

Sophomore Sage Shaw was one student that was angry with the college for not canceling classes completely.

"I think that most of the college is from New York, New Jersey and the DC area," Shaw said. "I'm from New Jersey. I have family that was there. My cousin worked across from the World Trade Center and it seemed important for me to check up on him."

Other students thought the college's measures were appropriate.

"I definitely think it was important that we had classes today and went back to our normal schedule," junior Lindsay Moorhead said. "If we closed down, it would show we were horribly affected by it and we thought life couldn't go on. It shows that the terrorists didn't win."

Phone services were disrupted all day as the country was overwhelmed with telephone calls.

"We did have some problems with networks that didn't have anything to do with us," Voice Services Manager Linda Maple said. "People were using the phones just like the holidays. They were able to make local calls but the long distance was inundated."

The Athletic Department called off the volleyball game on Tuesday with Goucher College. The game has been rescheduled for October.

Coaches also got together with opposing teams and played games on Wednesday and will play on the weekend.

"[We have] to keep things as normal as possible," Director of Athletics Ed Hegmann said. "It's better to keep people busy and sustain normality."



Photo Courtesy of Reza Marvasti/Free-Lance Star

A picture of Mary Washington College Students that was featured nationally by time.com

## Silent Vigil Draws Students Together

By RUTH CASSELL  
Associate Editor

On the evening of "The Attack on America," 1,100 Mary Washington College students gathered in Ball Circle, but the chirping crickets made the only sound.

The moment was captured on film by Free-Lance Star photographer Reza A. Marvasti. The picture not only dominated the front page of the Region section of the Free-Lance Star but also appeared in a photo essay on Time magazine's Web site, time.com.

At the Vigil, sponsored by the Student Government Association, every student held a lit candle and reflected or prayed for the victims of the tragedy.

Junior Lindsay Moorhead, like other Mary Washington College students, had the scare of her life on Tuesday morning, Sept. 11. For a few hours after hearing about the attacks she could not get in touch with her father. She said the Vigil helped her deal with the emotions of the day.

"I had a close call today with my dad, who works very close to the Pentagon and I couldn't get in touch with him for hours," junior Lindsay Moorhead said. "My dad is okay, but I guess some people weren't so lucky and I came out to support everyone."

Students in attendance said that they felt the Vigil was an effective way to give students the opportunity to not only mourn but also show their support for each other and their nation.

"It was good that the college can come together as a community," said junior Jason Hugh. "For me it was a time to pray for everyone involved and for the nation."

Junior Kelly Johnston said that the gathering gave her the chance to feel like she was helping, like she had a small part in the healing process.

"I just felt like it was important to show respect for the hundreds, maybe thousands, who are dead," she said. "In a time like this you feel there is nothing you can do, so at least we have the chance to all be together."

The SGA worked with several other student and administrative organizations to give campus a way to deal with the aftermath of terrorist attacks that hit so many so close to home.

"I hope [the Vigil] gives everybody some time at the end of a day like this to be together because we are all grieving," said Kristy Bartle, SGA executive coordinator.

According to Bartle the SGA bought 500 candles and wax catchers and larger candles for the center table at a cost of \$100 out of their budget. Trinity Episcopal Church donated 500 candles as

well, and Bartle said that they used all 1,000 candles, some of them twice.

Bartle said that she first proposed the idea to Bernard Chirico, vice president of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, only three hours after the devastating attacks on New York's World Trade Center and D.C.'s Pentagon.

"I wanted to get Chirico's opinion because he knows a lot about psychology and I was wondering how he thought a gathering like this on the night that everything happened would affect students psychologically," Bartle said. "He was really supportive."

Chirico said that at first he questioned the timing of the event that Bartle suggested, but as they talked they decided on some courses of action that would make the gathering a positive experience for students.

"When things like this happen, everyone wants to do something," Chirico said. "I just wanted that something to be positive. So, we decided that the students would organize the events and that the administration would provide professional personnel in case anyone was overly upset."

He said that the students' response to not only the Vigil but also to the 4 p.m. meeting in Dodd Auditorium showed how Mary Washington College students pull together in times of need.

"The groups involved helped the students come together and it was very powerful," he said. "By and large what you saw [Tuesday] night is how our students react to things like this."

Senior Joel Nelson, president of Class Council, said that Bartle had also asked for both Class Council and Honor Council to help with the arrangements for the Vigil. He also said that some of Chirico's concerns also came up in the meeting the SGA called to discuss plans.

"We didn't want it to become an arena for a political debate," Nelson said. "There was some talk of having RAs there to act kind of as counselors, but we decided that we just wanted to have a silent vigil."

Cedric Rucker, dean of Student Life, also helped the SGA pull the event together. He said that their motivation was to give students a chance to quietly contemplate their personal as well as shared experiences.

"It's not remembrance, it's reflection on what has happened during today," he said. "It has dominated conversation and discussion all day long on campus, inside and outside of the classroom. So, we wanted to give students a chance to reflect as much as they wanted or needed to."

## Professors Lend Insight To Tragedy

By LAUREN LEGARD  
Assistant Features Editor

Many Mary Washington College professors have expressed opinions concerning possible aftermaths of the massive terrorist attack on the United States.

These professors discussed foreign policy, historical perspective, economics, social perspectives, and national mentality.

Jason Davidson, senior lecturer of political science, said the terrorist groups responsible for yesterday's actions and possible states supporting these groups will face retaliation.

According to Davidson, the attack itself was not a complete surprise. Members of the Foreign Policy and National Security Committees have been anticipating some type of terrorist attack for five or ten years based on analysis of current terrorist movements.

"While we didn't expect it in the place that it was and [it] was certainly shocking in magnitude, people have been predicting that we would have a terrorist attack like this at some point," Davidson said.

Porter Blakemore, associate professor of History and American Studies attempted to place yesterday's crisis in an historical perspective.

"The significance is going to be a warship in American history," Blakemore said. "This demonstrates clearly that we are vulnerable to fanaticism."

Professor of Economics, Steven Greenlaw, explained in detail the possible economic impact on the U.S. and the rest of the world.

"It's certainly not good for the stock

market," Greenlaw said. "Stock markets in Europe and Asia plummeted eight percent yesterday."

Greenlaw said he would advise Americans to adopt a "wait and see" attitude in regards to a possible recession.

"I don't know if this will make things worse," Greenlaw said. "I think Congress will stand behind Bush and support government spending on things like defense. [That] would help stimulate the economy."

Greenlaw further explained that if the recession occurs, it will be more difficult for students graduating in May to find jobs. He indicated that the unemployment rate from July to Aug. rose from four percent to four-and-a-half percent.

"Firms are doing more firing and less hiring," Greenlaw said. "If this continues into a full-blown recession, it could impact student jobs. It will affect people looking for jobs in May if we're still in this slowdown economically."

Robert Rycroft, professor of Economics, had a different view than Greenlaw.

"I think there will be no noticeable impact on anything," Rycroft said. "As horrible as the event was, compared to our economy, it's still a pretty small event. If it doesn't affect the United States economy, it won't affect the world economy."

Rycroft also does not predict any long term impact on the stock market.

"There may be dips in the next few days due to lack of confidence, but they will be offset soon," Rycroft said. "I think Americans have more confidence in our position than we have had in decades or

centuries."

Other faculty, including, Joan Olson, associate professor of Sociology and Anthropology, said they believe that America needs to step back from the events and analyze them in order to answer questions.

"People need to be slow to interpret and not rush into analyzing the situation," Olson said. "Too much speculation can prove to be counterproductive. One of the things that academics should know is that you can't interpret in advance of data. It is possible that the public will never know everything."

Topher Bill, professor of Psychology, said he believed it was difficult to predict the full impact of yesterday's events on America's psyche so early on.

"This [attack] is something we don't know how to deal with," Bill said. "Everyone's going to expect massive retaliation. We'll all feel less safe. Everyone will think of it when they get on a plane."

Another Professor of Psychology, Denis Nissim-Sabat explained that the traumatic part for Americans will be dealing with the images and consequences of the terrorists attacks.

"I think the immediate reaction will be one of shock and anger and feeling a need for retribution," Nissim-Sabat said. "There will be different levels of trauma. Those in D.C. and New York are qualitatively different than those in California. I think people are very resilient and will show the perpetrators that this won't stop our lives. [America] needs to know who's behind it. [We] need to be able to focus our anger on those sources. Once we're able to identify [them], we will become more directed."



# Viewpoints

your opinions

## Caution!

Because of Tuesday's terrorist attacks on the United States, thousands have died and thousands more have suffered. As a nation, this act has incited fear and anger, both of which are justifiable emotions. However, if left unchecked, these feelings can easily become dangerous.

Currently, the United States is uncertain as to who committed these acts. There are no clear suspects, and no group is taking responsibility. Thus, the United States and its citizens must all be cautious in its response to this tragedy.

Our fear and anger may lead us to lash out in an attempt to punish those who committed the acts. Doing so as a nation right now would simply be rash. It would be altogether too easy to err and harm the innocent, which would solve nothing. Although currently the emotions are raw, we as a nation must be patient and exercise extreme caution in our attempts to punish the guilty.

On an individual level, we must remember that this was not the work of any people, only that of crazed and evil individuals. To attack and slander an entire people in response to this would be wrong. We must keep this in our hearts and minds as we deal with this. We must all hope and pray that this does not become an opportunity for even more hatred in the world.

## Joining Together

Upon hearing of this week's tragic events, The Bulletin staff knew it would be trivial to have a regular campus newspaper. When something strikes as deeply as this terrorism has struck our nation, our having a sports or a features section would be inconsequential. This is why we devoted the newspaper to campus coverage of this event.

Because of the massive impact of this tragedy, we invited everyone in the college community to send us their feelings about what happened. We printed them all, and nothing was censored. At a time like this, The Bulletin is and should be the newspaper for everyone in the Mary Washington College community.

Let us hope we can get through this tragedy together.

# Towers Collapse Yet Freedom Remains

PHILIP L. HALL  
Guest Columnist

The events of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001 confront us at Mary Washington College and Americans everywhere, as one of those utterly indelible intrusions upon our national consciousness—a moment akin to Pearl Harbor, the Kennedy assassination, or the Challenger disaster, probably worse. It is hard to say right now as events are still unfolding.

We can't really fathom yet what it means, or what it will mean in the days and months and years to come, but it is already quite apparent that things will never again be as they were.

The toll in human life has not yet been determined, but it will be terrible—those victims working in the stricken buildings, rescue workers trying to help them, or even worse, passengers sitting helplessly in the hijacked aircraft, apparently realizing full well what was about to happen to them.

We know about the awful pain and anguish felt by the victims' loved ones, families and friends. Perhaps there are such loved ones in the Mary Washington College community, and if there are my heart breaks for them in particular. Even if not, I know about the feelings shared by

every one of us who reflects upon the fragility of our human existence, the vulnerability even of a nation as great and as powerful as ours, and our profound sense of being violated. It's a feeling in the pit of one's stomach that won't go away.

What can we do in such circumstances? As a nation, certainly, we must keep our wits about us and maintain our confidence that an open and free society is the only society we would want to live in, in spite of its inherent vulnerabilities.

I believe we must avoid hasty presumptions about who must be behind these heinous events. We must reject any nasty suggestions about people of certain ethnic groups. We shall, of course, spare no effort in dealing with who is actually responsible, but we must not nurture blind hatreds, even if we suspect there are those who have acted out of their own blind hatreds toward us.

As a community—a college community—we need to come together and be there for each other as we try to sort meaning from chaos. We are a community of learners and seekers after truth and understanding about the human condition, in all its complexity and mystery. And now we are presented with a "teaching moment" if there ever was one. Sometimes

we think of ourselves as removed from the world in our proverbial ivory tower. But Tuesday reminds us as little else could that such is never the case.

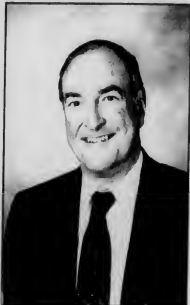
This is not "Towering Inferno" with convincing special effects. This is real. We need to talk about what has happened, in our classes, in our public gatherings, and in our conversations with each other. As we talk, there will be times when words fail us. Try as we might, we may feel utterly unable to muster any understanding at all about what has happened or why. That is frustrating and disheartening, but it's OK.

Knowing that we are there for each other and that we all feel those frustrations together rather than just individually is what matters most right now. And we must also keep acting as so many of us already have. The candlelight vigil. The overwhelming response to the call for blood donation. These show our community's genuine concern and desire to do whatever it can to help others in a time of great need.

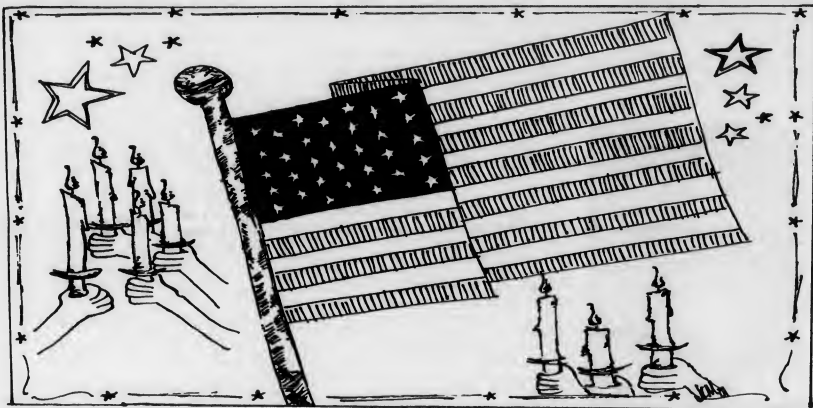
As individuals though, in our quiet moments, we must say our prayers for the victims and their loved ones. We must pray for forbearance and steadiness in the face of horrible provocation. We must pray for comfort and strength as we find ourselves in the valley of the shadow of death. And we must give thanks for our privilege as Americans that so seldom is our freedom

and security threatened or attacked as they were on Tuesday.

There are places in this world, too many of them, where this happens on a daily basis. Let us somehow try to learn from the events of Tuesday how we can lessen such misery everywhere, and how we can keep it from engulfing us too.



Philip L. Hall, is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty.



## MWC Graduate Recalls Tragedy

MATTHEW F. MARINO  
Guest Columnist

Having only graduated in 2000 from Mary Washington College, I still like to check and see what is going on in my alma mater's community. In my Mary Washington College email account I saw the number of messages related to yesterday's tragedy and was not surprised that Mary Washington College reached out like it did—that's one of the things that makes me proud to be an alum.

Having witnessed it first hand, I thought you all might like to know what I saw and what I felt as I saw it. This is as much a catharsis for me as it is anyone else. For anyone who has lived through any tragedy, sharing is a way of beginning the healing process.

I work for a law firm up in Newark, New Jersey. Our offices have a clear view of the New York skyline. I arrived at work about 9 a.m. Tuesday, and the first thing I heard upon stepping off the train was, "There is a fire at the World Trade Center." As I'm walking through the corridors to my building, I hear a man exclaim in disbelief, "A plane hit the tower?" This of course caught my attention, but it was one of those things that a person would be able to see to believe. Still, I knew that once I got to my office I'd be able to see what was going on from my window.

I get upstairs and mention to the staff that one of the Twin Towers is on fire, and a few of us go into an empty office. There we see huge amounts of smoke pouring out of one of the towers. We are all surprised and talking about this when we see an airplane headed toward the other tower. "That's a plane!" one of the secretaries exclaimed. As we looked on in complete horror a plane flew directly into the other Twin Tower, and what followed was a huge fireball. "Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God!" That's all I could say—that's all anyone in our office could say. Knowing that I witnessed death firsthand—I wanted to throw up, and that's putting it mildly.

The first thing I thought of was my father—he worked close by, and not knowing where exactly he was, I panicked. My mom called me and I told her what I'd just seen. We shared the concern that my dad was nearby, but neither of us could get to him. My office was in a state of panic now.

Right before 10 a.m., someone yells that the Pentagon has been attacked in the same fashion—a plane has crashed into it. "We are at war!" I thought. Around the same time, one of the other secretaries screams that the first tower has collapsed. About a half hour later, and well into the "code red" feeling we all had, we all just looked out at the smoke—and then, as mind-boggling as it might sound, the second tower collapsed.

To anyone who either lives in New York or has been to the great city, you know how much those towers represented the city as a whole—its strength, diversity, prominence. From an aesthetic standpoint, take a look at the New York skyline. Look at its beauty—and displayed prominently are the Twin Towers.

One of my best friends, Carrie, came up to visit me last year and we went to the Empire State Building and just stood in awe of the view. Now check out the New York Times website, and look at the "new" skyline—minus the Twin Towers. Its freaky. But its more than the physical presence of the Towers, it's the people inside. The people make the World Trade Center what it is, or now, what it was. There was so much life in there, so many people and so many ideas. People I have known and worked with have probably lost relatives, friends, loved ones.

As they evacuated our building, I remember just walking. They wiped out the World Trade Center, the people, the buildings. There's a huge hole in New York. Getting home at around noon, I turned on the television to see what millions of people watching had seen. Seeing the close up of what I saw firsthand made me just stop, attempt to gather my thoughts. I had friends I could turn to, family who I reached out to.

Still today, as I write this, my mind is numb—and I am sure, thousands and thousands of minds are the same way. A lot of people in the N.Y. City area and New Jersey saw these events live and in person as I did, and we all say the same thing. All of you saw it on television as well. Unreal. Just unreal.

Though I could go on and talk about what we have to do to the people who did this to us, to our country, I won't. What I will say is this: to anyone in the Mary Washington College community who is from the New York/New Jersey area I hope that everyone in your family is all right.

To everyone at Mary Washington College, especially those who may have been personally affected by this, I'm feeling the same things you all are. Reach out to one another, and be thankful for what you have. It will hurt for awhile. This isn't a dramatic monologue I'm giving you all here, it's the God's honest truth of what's going on in my mind. I hope your own sharing helps you all as well.

Matthew F. Marino  
graduated in 2000.



## Bullet Letter and Editorial Policy

The Bulletin is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them. If there are numerous letters on one subject, a sampling of the best letters will be selected.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted the Monday before publication. All letters and columns are subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words. The Bulletin reserves the right to withhold libelous material.

The Bulletin does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disability, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sex, age or sexual orientation.

The Bulletin will not publish anonymous letters or columns. All letters must be signed, and a phone number and address must be included to facilitate verification of authorship of the letter. Letters and columns can be mailed to The Bulletin at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seabrook Hall or sent to our e-mail address at [bullet@mwcc.edu](mailto:bullet@mwcc.edu).

Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Bulletin staff. The staff editorial represents the opinions of The Bulletin editorial board and not necessarily those of the college, student body or entire Bulletin staff.

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The Bulletin is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of the Bulletin's advice.

# Reactions

## Personal Quotes

It was like watching "Independence Day" I kept thinking I was going to wake up from this nightmare that was invading my world.



Lauren Valle, Junior

I have this hopeless feeling that this could have happened anywhere and to anyone. Everything else seems trivial right now compared to this.



Stuart Gottlieb, Junior

Your hurt is known only too well by Jesus, who was himself "a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering."



Paul Broko, Junior

I understand that the best thing to do now is live our lives as normal as possible, but we can do that after a time of remembrance.



Katie Berry, Senior

I was awoken by my roommate's brother calling to have me tell him that their father was OK.



Andrew Mertz, Senior

Are we really free when we are consumed by hate? Are we really free if it is so easy to condemn innocent people?



Matthew Murphy, Junior

All Photos Courtesy of Battlefield

## Students Share Thoughts

Compiled By:  
**CAROLINE S. WALLINGER**  
Assistant News Editor  
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Assistant Features Editor  
**C. RUTH CASSELL**  
Associate Editor

### SHELL-SHOCKED

I am angered by the wanton cruelty that these acts of terrorism represent. I am also shocked by the scenes of Palestinian children as young as 10 years of age rejoicing alongside their elders over the deaths of thousands of human beings. It enrages me to realize by these images that the world is passing on a deep disrespect for human life to its children. As long as that practice continues, there will never be peace in civilization.

Cassandra M. Newman, sophomore

When I first learned of what happened in New York and Washington, D.C., I didn't believe it. To fathom that airplanes crashed into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon was almost impossible. How could something like this happen to the United States? We have our share of terrorist attacks, but this one was not like any other. Destroying the Twin Towers and part of the Pentagon was huge. Watching the TV reports over and over still didn't make it sink in any faster. I was still in shock and disbelief. Thousands of people possibly died in these crashes and billions were affected worldwide. Even though none of my family or friends were directly involved, I still felt for the ones who were involved. The terror that those innocent people must have felt is again unfathomable to me.

I am from Long Island and my family and I visit New York City fairly regularly. The World Trade Center's Twin Towers were a normal sight in the NY Skyline. My next visit to NYC, however, will be all too eerie. Two of the most recognizable buildings in the world will no longer be there once stood. I hope that the people responsible for this are duly punished.

Curt B. Haase, senior

It was the scariest thing I've ever seen. The image of the plane smashing into the towers, the image of people falling out of the burning World Trade Center, the image of the sea of people streaming down the streets in horror, the image of the tower's collapse...these I will never forget nor understand.

Allie Krebs, Junior

My reactions to the "Attack on America" are those of sadness and anger. Sadness for the people who died so horribly

and needlessly and anger because my sense of freedom and safety have been robbed from me. I believe that the United States should take rapid action against the perpetrators of this crime. Americans should be strong and stand behind the decisions of our President and whatever actions he feels are appropriate. My heart goes out to the victims and their families in their time of grief.

Laura M. Gionfriddo, Junior

The mood on campus yesterday reflected the mood across the country. It was full of shock and chaos played out in peaceful silence. This tragedy weighed heavily on everyone's mind and it was the only thing mentioned in conversations across campus. The footage on TV is surreal. The amount of destruction and devastation is something never witnessed by my generation.

The debris and wreckage, is so great it can't be described as anything less than a war zone. There were so many people affected by this tragedy, and the worst part is we have no concrete idea of who did this. The seemingly impossible has become possible and the strongest nation in the world has been humbled. Our strength is there but it has been severely challenged. The brightest hope is that our faith and pride has not been shaken. I think it will be something that never leaves the national memory, but not something we can't triumph over.

Dana Angell, senior

I am so devastated over this tragedy that occurred in New York and Washington D.C. It is really sad that some family members will not get to say goodbye to their lost ones over something like this. My prayers go out to the victims, the family of the lost ones, and to America.

Erika Hilliard, administrative assistant of the James Farmer Scholars Program

It has really affected me. The devastation all around and the people who lost their lives. I was in shock for a while. Also, my friend goes to George Washington University and her dorm is three blocks from the Pentagon. Other friends parents were in NYC and just made it out and my sister is in Pennsylvania. It was really scary. I feel so bad for the children most of all.

Lindsay Jett, freshman

We woke up today in a new country. One where everything has been shot to hell. The monument of our security and our economy breeched by suicidal madmen who feel destroying innocent people empowers them. My dad is trying to help me see this new world, but he is military and behind our new walls of security. I don't know what is going to happen. It is 10 times Antietam.

Elizabeth A. McDowell, freshman

The events of the past few days made me realize how vulnerable we are here in America. I never would have thought it would be so simple to cause such devastation in a matter of hours. The tragedy forced me to think about how I interact with the people I love, and to not take them for granted, because you never know what could happen, no matter how big and bad your government's defense budget is.

Jacqueline McClain, freshman

We are studying abroad right now from Australia and were shocked and horrified to see the American landscape so completely devastated. It is hard right now not to be with our friends and family at home, but all the Americans here have joined together to pray and mourn for lives lost. The Australian friends we have made have tried to ease our pain by offering their condolences and support. They have gone out of their way to take every possible measure necessary to comfort their fellow humans.

Nationality is no longer a factor as people have come together throughout the world to mourn and grieve. We thank the Australian people for their support and our hearts and prayers are with everyone at Mary Washington as well as all Americans who have suffered from this devastation.

Katelyn McNulty and Gianna Farrell

It's hard to imagine how someone or some group of people can harbor that much hatred.

Bill Abbott, director of the Eagles Nest

As I sat last night, watching the numerous news accounts of yesterday's tragedy, my heart sank to my stomach as I thought about the thousands of children who hugged and kissed their parents goodbye before going to school Tuesday morning, and waited, and waited, and waited all last night for mommy and daddy to walk through the door...but they never did. My fervent prayers are extended to every child affected by yesterday's events. May they rest in the comfort of the supportive and loving arms of God.

Natalie J. Ellis, Residence Life

My initial reaction was "Is this a joke?" but when the reports and pictures started to hit all of the media sources, I couldn't believe how devastating all of this is here in our own backyard. It's totally surreal and unfathomable. I will continue to pray for every family member, especially the children, that are affected by this horror.

Deb Mannarano, Department of Education

Today was shocking for all of us, but the real pain didn't hit me until after talking to my friends and family this evening back home on Long Island. My mom had a

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friend who worked only five blocks away from where the World Trade Center stood, and had to run for her life through massive pandamonium to the Brooklyn Bridge where she had to walk home covered in dust.

Even more shocking to me was a friend of mine who knew someone who was on the plane from Boston that crashed into the World Trade Center this morning. Yet the stories I heard that made my body freeze were things like children in school in my town running down to the offices saying to the secretaries "my mommy or my daddy work in those buildings," and parents I know who are teachers who had to ride the bus home with some children making sure there parents were home to get them, and not stuck or dead in the city. I think everyone realizes the seriousness of this attack, but I hope to add the reality to them that people they are going to school with could have been personally effected. Richard Higgins, sophomore

**I am completely speechless.** This whole situation caught the nation and myself 100 percent off guard. But there's no way for me to understand the severity of all this. I can't comprehend the amount of lives lost due to this act...hated. The pain that one must go through when dealing with the loss of a loved one. So many perished because of all this, and I for one see no reason behind it. Because of this, my eyes have opened, and I truly realize how blessed I am, and that I must appreciate every little thing that crosses my path more than ever now. It's like a movie—unbelievable, the crap that went down on Sept. 11... Mike Newbold, sophomore

**For me, the most shocking development** of what happened today was the throngs of Palestinians celebrating the deaths of thousands of innocent people. I find it incomprehensible that adults and children alike would be cheered by the devastation that occurred. It sickens me that anyone anywhere would dance in the streets celebrating the deaths of thousands, no matter what nationality. Claudia Thomas, freshman

**This is an unparalleled event** that diminishes all of mankind. What will happen tomorrow? God help us all. Mark Sturm, junior

**I can't believe this happened to us.** America is supposed to be the tough guy that this sort of thing never happens to. I am overwhelmed with disbelief and anger. I hope that we find whoever did this and punish them to the fullest extent. Amanda Thomasson, junior

**I walked into class this morning** with a smile on my face, unaware of the complete horror that was unfolding twenty minutes from my own home. As I switched on the television and saw day turn to night through an ominous cloud of smoke, I felt an nauseous weight hit my body. I had never felt farther away from my home and family than at that moment. Being able to see the skyline from my favorite coffee shop at home in the Garden State, I was devastated as I watched it crumble to the floor. All I could think of was getting in touch with my family and friends as I frantically punched the numbers on my phone, trying to connect to those engulfed in the smoke. Even though I was here in Virginia, and tragedy

was striking just as close, New York was the only place on my mind. I felt both naive and frantic, believing that something of this magnitude could never hit America, and now it had. What was I to do?

With the phone lines down and communication limited, the Dark Ages began to hit me in my dorm room, and I secluded myself with my roommates, trying to make sense of the impossible. I shouldn't have had to worry though, right? I mean Mary Washington is a comforting, safe community isn't it? So I thought, until I received an e-mail stating that classes would continue. Forget the fact that family and friends five hours away could be injured or even dead...schoolwork is the true priority.

Never have I wanted to be back in Jersey so badly, yet I remained trapped here on the sunny campus of MWC, where only the faces of the students projected the ultimate terror of this day. This was a day when we as a community should have been able to grieve and reflect, and instead we were forced to sit through endless classes, nervously shaking our legs and watching the clocks tick away the seconds, wondering, waiting, and silently grieving.

We are a public institution, funded by the government, yet we could not set aside time to reflect upon the lives of fellow Americans. These horrific events could have happened to any of us and did, indeed, affect many students and faculty members here. It makes me wonder if we as students are the true priority of this institution. Mary Kate Sheridan, sophomore

**I don't think that we could possibly understand** a tragedy of this magnitude. I think we all have a long hard road before us. Stephanie Genimatas, freshman

**When I turned on the news this morning I was in shock.** We really take our safety and security in America for granted. So far I've heard several heartbreaking stories and also a couple very close calls where people just happened not to go into work today. I have this hopeless feeling that this could have happened anywhere and to anyone. Everything else seems trivial right now compared to this. I just hope that those that have been personally affected by this can be ok and I wish them my best. Stuart Gottlieb, junior

**I believe everyone,** despite having close ties to D.C. or New York, is locked in a state of shock right now. Whether we believe this was a horrific isolated act or the start of something terrible, our foundation and security has been shaken. We are scared, confused, and unsure of how to digest something so surreal. Jessica Noble, freshman

**I just think this whole thing is sickening.** All of the lives that have been lost because someone wanted to prove a stupid point is horrible!!! It's hard to imagine how are country will rebound from this tragedy!!! Brooke Carter, freshman

**It was like watching "Independence Day"** I kept thinking I was going to wake up from this nightmare that was invading my world. I knew things like this could happen, did happen, but not to me, not to my home, not to America. Despite everything, all the hate and tragedy, we will prevail. As a nation, will stand united and the American Spirit will not be dimmed. Lauren Valle, junior

**I am scared.** I am scared that this even happened in the first place. I am scared that this could just be the beginning. I am scared that this could be the end. But mainly, I am scared at what will happen next. I know that this is a tragic time and that we should all come together but I don't want our convergence to be war.

I have heard a lot of people say, "We better get back who ever did this real bad!" I'm assuming that "real bad" means bombing whomever did this. Unlike Pearl Harbor, this attack was probably not the work of one country. It was probably done by a group of terrorists. We can't just go and bomb a group of people. At least I hope we can't. I also don't see what good bombing anyone would do. If we bomb the country the terrorists live in, we would also be killing innocent people (rejoicing at our tragedy does not make them guilty of the crime).

Perhaps this is just the pacifist in me kicking in but I hate war. I keep thinking that if we bomb them, they will bomb us back and eventually, someone will drop the big one. I know that my idea of punishment and the rest of the country's are probably not eye to eye. But don't misunderstand me, if we ever find out who did this, I want them to be punished. I don't know what their punishment should be. All I know is that their punishment will never be able to erase all the images and thoughts that will haunt me for the rest of my life. Merideth Munoz, freshman

**I remember coming back** from practice and eating breakfast in my room and watching the TV at around 9 a.m....it didn't seem real until I went out into the hallway and saw people crying, everyone on some type of phone trying to call home, or a friend, or loved one. It seems like we all take so much for granted, put so much off, wait for another time...all I know is that at the end of today, the things that seemed to matter so much last night mean nothing now, and those I thought I could put off for a bit are all I want to think about... Meghan Mascelli, sophomore

## FOLLOW-UP WITH FAITH

**I am shocked about the tragedy that took place yesterday,** and I feel as if it hasn't fully sunk in yet. I am deeply saddened about the situation. I do know that God is in control, and in knowing that, I have a peace about the situation. Through Him we will get through this. I know that He is carrying us during this difficult time. Our job is to hope, pray, love, comfort, and trust in God to get us through and to deal correctly with the group that is responsible for this tragedy. Abbie Duke, sophomore

**First and foremost,** the victims and their families and friends of Tuesday's attack are in my prayers to the One True God and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who is not deaf to our cries, hates sin and evil infinitely more than we do (and Who alone can save us from the effects), and will ultimately judge every man and woman for everything they said and did under the sun. Secondly, I stand behind President Bush in whatever actions he believes the United States must take during the uncertain times ahead in order for this to remain a safe, secure, and free nation. I am convinced the ultimate goal of these merciless terrorists will not be achieved; Tuesday's tragedies will only unify the American people and strengthen our military. The "silent anger" within all of us for these crimes against nature and humanity the President mentioned

Tuesday evening will not remain silent for long. Tom Holloway, senior

**It's hard to believe** that anyone in this world could be that merciless, heartless, and hateful. I pray for the thousands of innocent people that were victims of this tragedy. God bless them all and may God punish those responsible. Kathy Owen, junior

**It is now after midnight,** and not an hour north of here the Pentagon still burns, as does my heart. The staggering images are embedded in my mind: the jet plowing into the tower, people jumping to their deaths, Manhattan enshrouded with dark smoke, the Pentagon broken, the collapse of the World Trade Center... I can only wonder and pray. I wonder at the world, and I pray to the Lord. The two couldn't be more different.

When God created humanity he saw that it was "very good." I doubt we would use those words to describe these horrific events. My, how far we have fallen... fortunately, that is not the whole story.

The Bible tells a great tale of utter heroics, unselfishness, and mercy of divine proportions, which has global implications. According to Christians, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Such a sharp contrast with the deeds of humans.

Let's face it: the past day's news has been anything but flattering to humanity. The president himself said: "today our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature." I wish we could say that days like these were the exceptions to humanity's existence, but any student of history knows that they resemble more the rule. But where was God on the eleventh of September? To those who ask this question with a hurting heart, as I myself even do, know this: you are in my prayers and the prayers of many other Christians on this campus.

Your hurt is known only too well by Jesus, who was himself "a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering." Indeed, I have found it rather hard to indict the God who died for my sins, even during times like these. Instead, I am moved to love Him and find comfort in Him...yes, even during times like these.

So, the better question is: where was God two thousand years ago? He was hanging from a cross, bleeding, dying for your sins, my sins, and even the sins of the people behind this terrorism. Again, note the difference between the Lord and the world.

Writer Philip Yancey puts it well: "Christ's death and resurrection represented at once a decisive defeat of evil and an 'advance echo' of what will someday happen to all who are in him."

God has acted once, by joining us on this groaning planet. God will act again, by returning in power and glory to restore it to its original design." When will we stop using God as a scapegoat and realize our need for a Savior? Paul Drake, junior

**GOD BLESS THEM.....** Lucille Mothershead, alumni relations

**When I was little,** I used to shower in the evening before I went to bed. This always used to scare me. The idea of being

# THOUGHTS, page 6

naked and vulnerable, the sound muted by the water. I think about that fear now and see how ridiculous that was. My parents were just downstairs. The door was safely locked. I lived in a good neighborhood.

It is amazing how my grief now feels like that fear. As I think of all those who lost lives and our nation threatened and our comfort destroyed, I feel just like I felt in that shower - alone, helpless. I wonder whether I can continue, will this be erased from my mind? The innocent lost their lives, the living lost their innocence.

My father saw New York from his business office. The image more real to him than me. I pray to God to make this real. Maybe then I won't fear evil. My grief will then be tangible. I can take the necessary steps.

I'm angry. I'm scared. I'm alone. I'm small. I wonder what does it matter if I get dressed and shave and shower, if I attend my studies, do my work, care about my life - when others, so many others suffer. This is bigger than my heart. Bigger than my brain can hold.

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "God loves, although He sees." Today, God saw and allowed evil to occur for reasons we cannot and should not comprehend. Yet, my comfort, no matter how difficult, comes from His love and His awesomeness - the work He does through those who help His creatures. It is the only way I know how. This is a call to action - a call to throw away our selves. We must die to live again.

Let's all be careful in our words, sincere in our hearts and prayers, and think not only of what we lost but also what is to be gained. God Bless You All.  
Sean Walsh, senior

**I would first like to give my condolences** to all of the friends and families that were affected by this tragedy. It is not an easy thing to deal with the agony of losing loved ones, friends, and associates. I would, however, like to give a word of encouragement. Be strong and prayerful. Look to God for your answer and believe that he can and will provide strength in your weakest time. God is the only one that we as a nation can depend on in a time like this. Keep your heads up and be encouraged. Peace & Blessings, Always.  
April Brice, senior

**Mother Mary, pray for peace.**  
All Powerful God, strike down our transgressors.  
Prince of Peace, be with those still buried.  
Merciful Lord, ease their pain.  
Holy Spirit, be with us.  
Timothy Sheils, freshman

## INTERNAL BLAME

**In light of yesterday's tragedy,** I think that the school should have cancelled classes. I feel that the school was disrespectful of those students who have family or friends in the D.C. area and Downtown Manhattan. I also cannot believe that some professors chose to carry on their classes as if nothing had happened.

Matthew Sheridan, senior

**I am still amazed at the airport "security" system** that allows persons with knives and whatever else to board an aircraft. If the security had been what it should have, implementing this barbarous act would have been impossible or nearly

so.  
Wake up airports!  
Jane Tavernier, Music

**While I do not agree with the tactics of the terrorists** who acted yesterday, I understand their motives. The United States is threatening the culture, language, and daily life of many citizens from many countries. The US has spread its negative influences throughout the world through media and big business.

To retaliate aggressively with force and violence would only cause more international tension. Enforcing peace through violence is not only ineffective, but unacceptable. The US does not need to flex its military muscle in order for it to be heard. Peaceful solutions exist, and should be utilized.

Colin Gold, freshman

**I hope people aren't eager to go to war.** I hope people have some sense. Good people die in wars too. Also, it makes me want to throw up when I see reports of hate calls and hate emails that are being received by Islamic groups. The United States citizens have been saying that this is an attack against our freedom. I agree, but I would like everyone to consider: Are we really free when we are consumed by hate? Are we really free if it is so easy to condemn innocent people?  
Matthew Murphy, junior

**The United States reaps what it sows.**

Jason Davis, freshman

**The campus has been vigilantly silent today,** which spoke volumes in and of itself. Rather than the generally raucous nature of the students and the constant thumps of music, sounds of the horrific incident that happened this morning drowned out the typically upbeat din. The sounds of crying, solemn whispers gossiping news of death tolls or suspects, screaming sirens, deafening military jets. I hate that as HUMANS there is so much spite and rage. I truly am furious at whoever did this, whether it was bin Laden or not. I can't even explain in words how sad it makes me that humans can act this way toward their fellow man, even over causes that create such a great chasm between nations. I am physically ill thinking of the lives that were lost today. My innocence died with them. Less than a month after moving away from home, I am faced with how vulnerable I truly am. Our nation was robbed of an incredible number of lives today, but the comfort of our powerful nation and sense of invincibility has also been torn away from us. I for one will never be the same again and I pray the we as Americans, as one people, will never forget this day. This false sense of protection has its price and we paid heavily for it.  
Patricia Boyce, freshman

**This was bound to happen.** The US needs to be more heavy-handed in dealing with terrorism. Every time in the past that an incident has occurred, the US has done nothing but express innocent, arrogant surprise and shout "Hey, that's not nice! Don't do that!" Again we are surprised that something so dire could occur. The loss of lives is terrible, but even more depressing is that this could have been prevented, had we reacted to previous attacks, and that it takes this much of a loss to bring the US to reaction.  
Robert Hartzog, freshman

**I think this is a grave reality** of what our world has come to. We live like kings, pretending that we're living in some sort of Disneyland. Someone wants us to think twice. A very sick someone with enough self-righteousness to kill people to prove his point. No matter the reasons, the worth, or the degree to which someone is obsessed, the act of murder does nothing more than prove ones own insanity.  
Rich W.

**American pride is what blinded us** to the very real possibility of an attack, and it is also what caused most of the shock that most Americans are feeling today. American pride is also what caused us to believe that we had the right to interfere in the affairs of other nations, and to impose democracy upon them. Democracy may be the best thing for our individualist culture, but perhaps it is not best for some other cultures. It would be better if we could teach ourselves and our children to appreciate America, but not to be prideful about it...since pride does come before a fall.  
Diana McMillion, sophomore

## Where Do We Go From Here?

**Is there a way that we can send a message** to the people of DC and NY that MWC sends their condolences and prayers to all the victims and families? I would really like to let those people know that people care beyond the local prayers.

Aliza Hasley, junior

**The cowardly group or nation responsible** for the bombing on Sept 11 should be bombed like hell, then bombed again. Though we should be sure of who is responsible before we strike back, we should strike back quickly. We don't tolerate this kind of crap in America. I have faith in President Bush and I think he will do an excellent job handling this situation.  
Colin Swink, freshman

**Like most everyone with even the semblance of a conscience,** I think the events of today are a tragedy that ought to be dealt with both swiftly and mercilessly. On the other hand, the danger of a terrorist group is that the elimination of "the leader" really cannot stop the organization as a whole. So whatever action is taken against the perpetrators of this horrendous crime against humanity, we must still be on our guard against further attacks.  
Dave Bessom, senior

**I didn't have any specific comments** about the events on Tuesday (it's not my place to say), but to let you know, some Mary Washington students who are also EMT's took time out of their day to go and do what they could. During this time, all sorts of agencies will need lots of volunteers. Go out and help.  
Bob Cambridge, EMT Fredericksburg Rescue Squad

**Today is the day we will remember forever.** I believe it's important, crucial, to think hard before we sacrifice any more lives, too many have already been lost. I am generally a pacifist, but I fully think that someone needs to answer for today's tragedy. Even so, I don't think we should rush into anything that will result in unnecessary American or foreign casualties.

Also, I would advise people that they should be careful not to condemn an entire race or religion for the acts of a radical few. The world is different, but we will all endure, not necessarily as "Americans" but as humans.  
Matthew Murphy, junior

**No one wants war.** War is a horrible thing where people like you and I die, much of the time innocently. However, THOUSANDS of people just like us have died today (Tuesday) due to some psychopath's insane view on getting his point across. This action cannot be ignored. While I think the United States must be very careful to not over-react, we also must be sure to produce a just punishment for the group responsible and ALL ASSOCIATED PARTIES. I fully agree with the President when we must view nations that harbor terrorists the same as the terrorists themselves. They must pay for their crime of acting as accomplice. For now, however, God is the only one in control of this national emergency, and we must give the situation to Him. He is the only person who can make sense out of this madness.  
Jeffrey Longo, freshman

**This is a time for reflection** and relief of the victims of these tragedies. It is important that we not rush to play the blame game. Lets face it, we don't know who did this and already people are talking about bombing Afghanistan and whatever other eastern nation that could be responsible. For now, it is irresponsible and pointless to waste our time being angry at some unknown terrorist. Now is the time to help the victims by donating blood and whatever other productive thing that we can do.  
Casey Hill, freshman

**I feel that as a country** after today's tragedy we will never be the same. Many people's lives and our economy have been permanently shaken by the events which occurred. Families have been destroyed by the many lives that were extinguished. I personally feel that vengeance of some sort is definitely need to be punished for the irreparable damage that they have done.  
Gabrielle Davoy, sophomore

**My thoughts are with the injured,** their families, and the families of the dead. This was a horrible act, and whoever is responsible must be found and punished to the fullest extent possible, but we must not strive for revenge, lest we become the evil monsters.  
Dave Riskey, sophomore

**The tragedy of this event** cannot be overestimated. It was horrific and the pointless waste of human lives will imprint itself on this country and its people. However, that said - as angry as we all are, to indiscriminately lash out with our extensive military capabilities is one of the worst mistakes we can make. Let us pray that cooler heads prevail, and that the pain and loss of this event will not compound itself with foolish actions towards those we perceive as our enemies.  
Carrie Chafin, freshman



▲ **THOUGHTS**, page 7

**STAND BY THE FLAG**

**Americans have always risen to the call** in times of need. A society that has never shirked from responsibility, that has gone to the aid of countless countries in the past, America now finds itself vulnerable. The callous act of terrorism displayed on Sept. 11 by unknown assailants has left the country bruised; however, the spirit and strength that is at the core of our country is still intact. We live in the greatest country that the world has ever seen. We will, through our strength, bravery and determination, rise above these callous events. We have been shaken to our very roots. No one has an explanation for this. We are not sure if there ever will be an explanation. All I know is that in times like this, when it seems like we've had all we can handle and we're on our knees, it is when we find our greatest strength.

As Americans we have been battered; we have been shaken to our very core. We have learned that we are, in fact, vulnerable. We are open to attack. Even so, Americans will survive this terrorist act of horrifying magnitude. We need to, as Americans, rally and come together. Our status as American citizens should come before anything else, including any loyalty to political parties. We need to stand behind our president and our government at this time, regardless. This is an attack on the entire population of Americans and it is imperative that we unite together, as citizens of the strongest country in the world, to rise above this unfathomable act of terrorism.

Lena Garner, freshman

**After hearing of the tragedies** of the "Attack on America," I was in a state of disbelief. Living in Northern Virginia my entire life, I never could have imagined that such atrocities could ever hit this close to home. After yesterday's events, my sense of security was shattered into a million pieces. Watching the news, talking to fellow students, and talking to friends working in Washington D.C. put things into a very sobering perspective. Life is extremely precious. Standing in Ball Circle amongst over a thousand students during the candlelight vigil, I found myself in an even worse state of shock and disbelief. The thought that those who died in Tuesday's events were mostly innocent civilians truly hit home.

There is no way to replace the loss of innocent life that occurred on Tuesday. Many of us, including myself, have lost family and friends in these events. This "Attack on America" is an event that will not be forgotten for generations to come. My only hope is that our great nation will take these events and take steps to learn from them. We can not let the innocent be forgotten.

It is in these troubled times that my fellow Americans must show their true colors. We must show these terrorists that we will not go quietly, and will not stand for their cowardly actions. Through perseverance, caring and support, the American way of life will boldly press forward. What does not kill us will only make us stronger. We must show these terrorists that despite their cowardly actions, that these acts will only lead towards further progress for future America. That despite the horrors of Tuesday's "Attack on America," you can not hold back the greatest nation on God's green earth.

Kevin T. Dalmat, junior

**When tragedies like this happen**

it is tempting to think that the Human race is unforgivably evil and to give up hope in souls and hearts. It is said that a lot of people were involved in this horrible, organized crime of mass destruction and it is obvious this is true but those numbers are nothing compared to the numbers that have shown various forms of heroism.

Think of the rescue workers who rushed to the dangerous scene and stayed there, hoping to save more lives. Think of the doctors, nurses, police, and firemen still working, nodoubt exhausted by now, hoping to save more lives, find more people and colleagues.

Think of the doctors, nurses, and volunteers overwhelmed because of people lined up sometimes for hours to give their own blood to those in need. Think of the newspaper, also working amazing amounts of overtime, working hard to get the information to families, friends, and all the concerned citizens of America. Think of everyone-bosses, telephone operators-helping to get word to families.

Think of the people in the World Trade Center who took the time to help injured co-workers down so many stairs.

Think of the organized prayers-the volunteers who organize them and the people who go.

Think of all the information-sharing on the Internet; when news network pages have been unable to handle the load, pages normally reserved for other activities, even some pages that had previously been advertisements, working to spread information about current events and blood drives. In chat rooms people checked with their friends from New York and D.C. while sharing information, venting, and comfort.

Think of the teachers consoling children. Think of the security officials working to prevent this from happening again and those destined to carry out those plans.

Think of the many heroes whenever you feel discouraged. The spirit of compassion lives and is strong. The evil of the world can never stand against it. Never doubt that this entire nation and many other nations stand with the victims' families and friends, and that we will find and bring to justice the people that did this.

Megan Gallagher, freshman

**As an army brat**, I got to spend my youth overseas. I had the opportunity to see many things. In elementary school, I watched soldiers with machine guns wander the halls to protect us children. Our base had received many bomb threats in the weeks before the Berlin Wall came down. Later, as the Gulf War broke out, I kissed my father goodbye as he was deployed to the gulf. I cried when I heard that his office building exploded, and laughed when he finally called and told me he was safe. Later, when we moved to Oklahoma, I served as an office assistant in Junior High and High School. I remember the phone call telling us that the city had been bombed. I remember being asked to find my history teacher and inform him that his wife was in a hospital in OKC and they needed him there. But through all of these events that are forever etched into my mind, none will ever erase the image of the World Trade Towers crumbling to the ground. I will never forget the fear as I tried to get in touch with my parents, both of whom work for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in Alexandria and Dulles.

I am angry and shocked, fearful that people are capable of this and at the same time, trying to come to terms with the fact that our country was attacked. I hear all the stories about people calling from the airplanes that were crashed, from people buried in the rubble under the trade centers. I hear the accusations being thrown about and I worry about the hatred that Americans are

showing, and the hatred that was shown so devastatingly to us yesterday. In 30 years, I wonder if this will be remembered as Pearl Harbor was. Will Hollywood make a movie of this?

I send all of my sympathy to the families and victims of this horrible event in our history and I send my compassion to survivors because of the media circus they will face as a constant reminder of what they were forced to deal with. I send anger to the Palestinians who stood in the streets cheering at our devastation.

Raised in a military family, I was taught to have a great sense of pride in our country and in the fact that I am an American. I was so proud of our nation yesterday, watching people unite to rescue the wounded, watching the lines form as people came to give blood. I was turned away yesterday, but it was completely fine. I was just so proud to see all of us coming together.

I have no doubt that our country will recover and be stronger than ever. We are a tough bunch, it is how our ancestors gained our freedom to begin with. May all those who perished in this heinous crime rest in peace, you will not be forgotten. September 11, 2001 will never be forgotten.

Ashley Michaud, junior

**What has been on my mind** since

late Tuesday afternoon is a fear that these tragic events will escalate the politics of hatred in our country. It is reminiscent of the Japanese internment camps of World War II. Please do not ostracize or judge an entire nation, ethnic group or religion because of what a small, albeit powerful, group has done to the American people. I pray that these losses bring us closer together as a nation, in mutual love and respect, rather than cause us to turn to one another in hatred.

Janette Murphy, senior

**I myself was overwhelmed** and in

a state of shock, as many other students were, about today's events. Although I had never before attended one and didn't even know what to expect, I was strangely comforted by the idea of an impromptu vigil in Ball Circle. I rushed over with a friend ten minutes late to see the assemblage of a large, beautiful, silent circle of lit candles.

I just stood and visually took in one of the largest crowds of Mary Washington students I had ever seen personally. In this circle, I finally had time to be still. It gave me a chance to process the events of the day and think about those who had suffered most, which is what I felt most of those around me were doing as well. It was this unspoken connectedness that seemed to make dealing with these tragedies a group effort rather than a battle of one. I know what is said about MWC's community spirit, but I think we show it when it counts most, and not with great fanfare, but with our silence.

Laura E. Williams, junior

**Today my heart was torn** to

pieces as the twin towers of the World Trade Center shattered and part of the Pentagon collapsed. I walked around an eerily silent campus today, absorbed in my own reflections. I can only pray that, while the fear and shock we experience may last for months, years even, the acts of terror are over with. America is a nation of strong and resilient people, and the sooner we can be rebuilding our lives the sooner we can show the terrorist that they have not won... that they can never win. Until then may God be with us in our time of need.

Emilie Schultz, sophomore

**I think that it's absolutely ridiculous** that people can be so cold, calculating, and heartless that they would take the lives of so many innocent people. On the plus side, though, the United States of America has definitely become more united, and we will stand firmly together to show that acts of violence will not make us fall. God bless all of the victims and families affected, the police, rescue workers, and firefighters who worked so hard to save lives, and God bless the U.S.A!!!

Michelle Durbin, freshman

**It is a great and horrific tragedy**

that has occurred today, both in physical loss and emotional rectitude. Not since that tragic December Sunday morning in 1941 has the American public, and indeed the Western World, been so brutally shocked and disillusioned by the act of a few. By comparison, the dreadfulness of Oklahoma City is inconsequential, and that is an unquestionably sad state of affairs to be in. We, as the self-proclaimed leaders of the free world cannot stand for such detrimental behavior to be inflicted upon any nation, or any people, much less our own soil; yet for the same reason of preserving that freedom we limit the actions from which we must select an answer. In the days and weeks to come, it is a moral imperative that The United States provide a unitary, unflinching front for the world to see that we are stronger than they think, and that physical bullying, no matter how great a magnitude it may come as, is no match for our steadfast belief in God's good judgment. Pray, and the nation prays with you.

Adam Bone, freshman

**First and foremost, my thoughts**

and sympathies go out to the victims and their families...although I feel that every American is a victim today. It is a tragic waste of human life. All in an attempt to break the American spirit.

But this country rallied today and will continue to pull together, through physical and emotional support across the nation, and proved, once again, that in the face of opposition, we will not be broken.

Amanda Picard, sophomore

**I just came back from the vigil**

and I was so moved by all the people that came out to pray for those that are grieving. It was a powerful sight to see so many people coming together for one soul purpose. I think everyone should pray for those in need, it could have happened to any one of us.

Elizabeth Jackson, junior

**We always seem to focus on the**

**negative** aspects of America when everything seems right and peaceful, but now that we have been attacked, the good virtues of Americans have surfaced, such as the ability to unite in a time of national distress. Although each of us are very different and unique, we all manage to identify ourselves as Americans and pull together to support each other in a time when nothing is certain except that we must go on.

Mandy McGuire, sophomore



▲ **THOUGHTS**, page 8**CREATIVE CATHARSIS****Tower Haiku**

Ashes, ashes, all  
American ashes call  
Fall down, on us all  
Timothy Waltonen

9-11

In my lifetime  
I saw  
death,

and realized  
that planning  
is pointless.

Cold grips the taught muscles  
in my calves.

I'm not going anywhere.

I sit among the nicotine addicts  
who know that life is too short to spend  
not smoking.

Sirens.

This is a peaceful place.

Today the  
pavement  
paused.

Clouds screamed  
in orange  
agony.

Candles brought us back,  
away from the dead.

Sirens.

It's quiet enough for sleeping.

Thump. Thump.  
We live on.

I wouldn't mind a cigarette.

Tomorrow  
laughter will replace this  
restlessness  
inside.

Sirens.  
We are good.  
Dara K. Ewing, freshman

**All that can be heard on campus**

is the song of the crickets and the rustling of the trees. The silence is eerie. No one smiles in passing. Even the squirrels are not as lively. Professors talk, but nothing is heard. Blah blah blah, they say, and all I can think of is impending doom. The chills consume my body.

Pictures come back in my mind to haunt me. Emergency crews resound on television. All we can do is wonder why...

Thank you for featuring our stories and reactions!  
Janet Moriarity, sophomore

**This morning I woke up and thought,** "Man, it sucks to be alive, I don't want to go to school."

This morning, a man woke up, and on his way to the Pentagon thought, "Man, it sucks to be alive, I don't want to go to work."

At the same time, a young business

woman, on her way to the World Trade Center, thought, "Man, I don't want to go to work today."

Today, a passenger boarded a plane, excited about her trip to Los Angeles.

The man from the Pentagon is badly burned.

The woman is one of the several casualties from the terrorist act to the World Trade Center.

The passenger on her way to Los Angeles never had a chance.

And me? I will wake up every morning for the rest of my life and thank God that I AM alive.

I suggest you do the same.  
Eric Rose, freshman

**DEEP THOUGHTS****Sara Kelly worked at the World**

Trade Center in New York City. She arrived at work at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, as usual. Like most people, she couldn't get her day started right without her favorite cup of coffee from the shop a few blocks down. She got in the elevator and headed down to the lobby. Stepping out into the beautiful September day, something caught her attention: the acrid smell of smoke. She turned and looked up at her building, only to discover it was on fire. In the chaos of people running out of the building, she forgot about her coffee. All day long she would thank God that she had been one of the lucky ones.

This is based on a true story. The name has been changed, but this actually happened to a friend of mine. She was very lucky. Too many people were not so lucky.

We must give thanks for the lives that were saved and grieve for those that weren't. But we must not forget that someone or some organization is responsible for this heinous crime. We must let this incident strengthen our resolve, not weaken it. We must have faith in the protectors of our nation and do all we can to help.

My sincere condolences go out to those families and friends who have lost someone. Our national community is strong and we can pull through this tragedy by supporting each other. Put aside petty differences and grudges, they are insignificant. The best thing we can do now is love each other.  
Tina Timpano, junior

**As a New Yorker for my entire**

life, I have walked down the canyon of building called downtown Manhattan. It was like a manmade grand canyon of steel, concrete and glass. But yesterday the unfathomable occurred. If you have ever seen these two monstrous buildings, it is beyond belief to think that they were taken down so easily. Normally thousands of people work inside, now there are thousands to mourn. Even though we must grieve, we must not let this act of war slide. We must track down the deviants who have caused this chaos and destroy them. I know that peace is generally considered a good thing, but when it is a choice between peace and retaliation for a heinous act like this, I choose war. We must reorganize, respond and reciprocate.

Christopher J. Williams, freshman

**My name is Bob Chaisson and**

I work in the Media Center in Chandler. My parents live in Nova Scotia, Canada and I called them when I got home from work last night. They said that the people there were shocked and that the locals there were lining up in droves to donate blood to send to the U.S. God bless the Canadians.  
Bob Chaisson, staff

**Never in my whole life have I witnessed such a horrific scene,** just watching on live television, both towers collapse on hundreds if not thousands of people tore me into pieces, overwhelming me with an indescribable feeling. It is my firm belief that war is not always the answer to international problems. However, in this particular circumstance if we can definitively pinpoint the culprit, then by all means bomb the hell out of them.  
Tyler Vose, senior

**As a child, I would hold my**

breath when I passed a graveyard out of respect for those who had died. In response to those students on campus who thought it was ridiculous for professors to cancel classes on Tuesday, I could only think how ridiculous it was for anyone to do anything but hold their breaths and reflect on all the innocent lives that were lost.  
Alyssa Best, senior

**My family and I moved to the United States from Poland because**

we felt Poland was too much of a hot spot for conflict, considering it's history. My parents chose the United States because they thought it was the one place on earth that they could bring up their children in peace. Over the last several years, we've seen less and less peace in this nation. I hope the one good thing that could come out of this tragedy is that we, as Americans, forget about our differences, and unite against foreign threats such as the one that came to pass yesterday. I no longer feel safe in this country. I've lived under a false pretense of security for the past 15 years, and all of what I've taken for granted over those years came tumbling down yesterday.  
Karolina Maria Nowak, junior

**I woke up this morning with the**

overwhelming thought of "what next?" The pain in my heart for the victims and their families is intense, but the fear I have of tomorrow is steadily taking over my brain. When I talked to my father on the phone he asked me if I was afraid of going to war. "Of course not," I answered, "wars have been happening throughout time." Then he asked me what was I afraid of. My answer to him was simply, "us."

The lives America has allowed us to live have left very few with the experience of terror. Yesterday changed all that. From California to Florida to Maine, the terror in New York and Washington D.C. came rushing through our televisions to become our own. The American people have never been tested like this before, and I beg you all to respond with dignity. Please don't become what we hate. Don't persecute the innocent, don't act in ignorance, don't speak without compassion. The people who lost their lives yesterday deserve to be remembered with respect, not hatred and violence. We owe that much to them.  
Kelly Creamer, junior

**For those of you who don't**

know, I'm spending the fall semester abroad in Israel. There is a deep feeling of solitude here, especially amongst the American students. It's hard to even try to encompass the magnitude of these horrors. Israel has declared a national day of mourning as a feeling of disbelief and utter grief sets in. Personally I always have had this "fairytale" notion, (as with millions of others), that America could never fall victim to any acts of terror of this sort. Israel was the place where this sort of horror played out. My whole notion of what is safe was shattered

yesterday. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.  
Zach Wineburg, junior  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**Peace is only obtained through strength,** history is filled with EVERY

example of this...Ghandi did it once...he's no longer here to help with this.

The ultimate outcome is in fact peace, but it cannot be obtained by sitting around singing Kumbaya.

An eye for an eye within the law...

Remember Pearl Harbor...

We are not offensive, merely defensive, hence we have been attacked on our soil, and the Constitution is clear, the Founding Fathers made it clear, that we must defend the United States of America.

The entire FREE world is on our side...

Thousands are dead, these are CIVILANS, not military... this is the absolute worst form of war... we put our own soldiers on trial if they purposely kill civilians, we will surely go after terrorists...

Peace through strength is history's only lesson...

These are scary times, we all must pray...  
Crystal Zorich, senior

**First of all, my sympathy goes**

out to all who have a personal connection with this grave tragedy. Along with feelings of sympathy, I also have some thoughts. In fact, the terrorist attacks on American soil have made us all think. I am certain that logic is impaired at least a little because of our initial reactions to what has happened, this doesn't make our reactions less important, to me it just gives these reactions a different dimension. Our country has not been the victim in a long time, and we have grown accustomed to defending freedom on enemy turf in order to protect our own rights. It is with that understanding that I can examine my reactions, and I think I have the presence of mind to appreciate that I am still reacting, as are others, on many levels. A friend has drawn my attention to two sides of the coin she feels oppose each other. I am sure there are even more views, and I am not convinced they are necessarily sides in the traditional sense of the word, just opinions and feelings, or perhaps this is what makes sides.

Certainly, this tragedy does bring us together in the feelings of sadness, sympathy, and even fear. I wouldn't say that these feelings are any more or less heart felt by any perspective. I also doubt, as some people may say, that there are just so many ways to act in this situation. These actions are where any discernible divisions lie.

Some people are angry and vengeful. This is understandable, and I'm sure we are all angry to some extent. Those who are already expressing a need to declare war seem to feel that we must act on this anger to avenge those killed and injured. To placate families, they say, we must recognize what President Bush has termed "unyielding anger" as a guiding force.

Personally, I feel that our actions, though they may be swift, must be meticulously measured. Thousands of people have died, we owe it to them to respond, but we also owe it to them to understand to the best of our ability why they were killed. Especially in this way that is violent, morally unacceptable, and a threat to the very fabric of American society. I have an intense desire to see that we can be, in 20 years, proud of our response. If we have learned nothing

▲ **THOUGHTS**, page 9

else in our history classes it is that people will scrutinize tomorrow decisions we make today, and will do so with information and perspective we are unable to possess.

I am sure some people will mistake my intentions in this letter, let me state I do not think we can forgive or pardon those responsible no matter their reasoning. However, in order to prevent this type of disaster we must also examine what was behind it and take a stand against this ideology. I can only repeat that we need to measure a swift action with the standards we hold ourselves to as American citizens. I don't pretend to know what these lofty actions are, and I am sure our government is looking for them.

Likewise, I realize it may not be possible to know what the most responsible options may be, we are forced to act in the moment despite our desire to know the future. I simply think we have a responsibility to victims and their families to both bring the guilty parties to justice, and as we so often try on a global scale, to not harm the innocent. With respect, I send my deepest condolence to those who have lost loved ones.

Sara McManus, sophomore

**Although I want the terrorists to pay** for all they have done, retaliation on the part of the U.S. will only lead to something bigger.

Halini Henry, sophomore

### The events of today caused a number of mixed emotions in me

I think what was so overwhelming about it all was that for the most part we all live in our sheltered little worlds and we think that nothing bad could ever happen to us, but here is this completely random incident that has managed to damage an entire nation. It's the randomness that makes it so hard. No one wants to live in constant fear of death, but on a day like today, it's hard to not be made aware of one's mortality. It's frustrating spending every minute of the day watching the news unfold before you on the television and knowing that there's nothing you can do but watch. I think it also makes you more aware of those around you whom you love. In a time like this we all just need to come together and be there for each other. It's sad and devastating and each one of us are effected in our own personal way, and really all we can do is let the ones we love know that we're there, and watch and wait and hope.

Alicia Banister, freshman

**In this time of great turmoil** we all need to keep things in perspective. We cannot turn our hearts to vengeance. Though that may satisfy the few for awhile, the only right thing to do is love and forgive. I know this will be hard, I too had family members directly effected by the atrocities, but it is the greater man who rises above vengeance. It is hated that put us in this situation to begin with. We must not repay it with more hatred.

Becky Shertenlieb, freshman

**This event puts life in perspective.** It really shows what is important and what is not and makes everything that is not seem so trivial. I called my entire family and told them I loved them!

It also shows that we are never safe.

Because America is the only real world power, it is also a target, and no amount of security can protect us. I was in total shock watching TV today, but I couldn't tear my eyes away. I want all the answers, yet I doubt we'll ever have them...

Lisa Colletti, senior

### The events which occurred today will not be forgotten as long as we live.

It will be similar to the memory generated from the death of Diana, the Oklahoma City bombing, the result of the OJ Simpson Trial. We will tell our grandchildren where we were when we learned of the bombing of the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

Katie Leesman, sophomore

**Grief is Real.** It's gripping and it throws you into a void in which time is suddenly not absolute. It can hurt a ten year old into the future in one paralyzing second, or it can stand still and refuse to let you move for days or weeks or years. Grief is unlike any other pain. It seizes your entire body and for an eternity you can't draw a breath of air. Your chest burns and you gasp and choke but there's no relief. Grief takes over your mind and dulls every other sensation except for the stabbing, the pounding, the burning. Grief is clarity.

Jessica Brown, junior

### First, This is the Largest Scale Terrorist Attack in American History

and our government and society will forever be changed by it. Anyone that can commit such a horrific murder of so many innocent lives needs to be prayed for. Words cannot describe the pain I feel for the families of the loved ones that were lost and for the many that were injured! This disaster is almost surreal and no one would have expected such an event to happen in the "land of the free." I feel that from this incident though, our government will try to enforce new laws and take away many of our civil rights and liberties since America as a whole is scared. Who would have thought that so much planning couldn't have been detected by our intelligence agencies...that makes you think just how strong our government actually is. Since many Americans are scared now...the government will more than likely try to establish new laws that limit us even more.

Although this may sound good, in all actuality, I feel that no matter what laws are in effect or what prevention policies they enact...if a terrorist group is going to attack...they are going to find a way. I just hope that our country doesn't make a wrong accusation and bomb a country that did not commit this disaster and cause a war. Like

I said before, all of America is in a state of shock and we will be praying for all involved! God Bless!

Holly Harrell, freshman

### I knew I was watching history today.

Glued to my TV set all day watching the pictures of the Pentagon thinking that if my dad had decided to go to work today...? Its been a truly emotional day for all of us. The message we learned today was to say "I love you."

Misako Bohlin, sophomore

### REFLECTIVE THINKING

#### Tuesday's tragic events were a horrible wake up call that no country, not even the US, and no person is immune to acts of terrorism. I pray for all the victims

and families and hope that the US will be able to heal soon.

Alex Lambert, junior

### We have all been touched by what happened Tuesday.

With our proximity to one of the incidents, undoubtedly many of us know someone who was directly effected. I was awoken by my roommate brother calling to have me tell him that their father was OK. He was working in the Pentagon when it happened. We need to recognize, and help those who have been most effected. Terrorism has one goal, to put fear into our hearts, and to disrupt our daily lives. If we let the terrorists do this, this tragic event scare us, they will lose. We can't let them win. Join me and rise, don't fear what might happen. Don't change your life because of what they have done. If we do this, we have won already!

Andrew Mertz, senior

### I woke up to news of the attack

at 10 am and I knew from that moment I couldn't go to class at 2. I spent a majority of the day in front of the TV in the Westmoreland lobby with friends and peers, watching events unfold that will certainly be the defining disaster of our lifetime. I cried for those we lost and their families, and in relief that I managed to get through the day without a personal loss. But really, we have all lost something very important, our sense of safety. We'll never be the same again. We'll never forget and probably never forgive.

Christine Elrod, Senior

### Throughout our nation's history

we have overcome many powerful enemies. We know that this is still true today that there are those who hate us and want to destroy us. We also know that we will overcome our current foe's actions. The best path for the nation is to continue to live freely, as Americans, and to stay ever vigilant in protecting our way of life. We are only defeated if we lose our devotion to America. No longer can we proudly boast that American soil is the safest soil. When I think of war, I think of war fought over there. Yesterday war landed at my doorstep, knocked, and slapped me in the face. What is this going to mean for me? How is our country going to react? I think that now is a time for mourning because until we are positive who is responsible, we will just be punching in the dark.

Kelly Ferguson, freshman

### "The energy, the faith, the devotion

which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it and the glow from that fire can truly light the world." President John F. Kennedy

A Tuesday morning like any other turned into one like no other. This normal day was thrown into chaos by explosions that tore at the hearts of millions. Pained with horror and fear the day slammed to a halt. This was more than mass murder it was an attack on the American Way designed to break our spirit and send us covering in fear. It did not break us and we do not cover to anyone. This day that we expected to be normal was anything but routine. The honor of the day will only strengthen our resolve to work together as a people to maintain our greatest value: freedom. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said "Our strength is in our unity of purpose." Together we can overcome the grief and shock that we are experiencing

and move on. We should go forward and protect our freedom and our way of life.

Daniel Glynn, sophomore

### I feel as though there are so many reactions that we are seeing, and yet, our feelings must be forced in several directions.

In so many ways we, as a country, must grieve for every person lost, the artist, the worker, the dreamer, the lover, children, women, men, all those whose lives abruptly ended. Yet, as a strong nation, we must utilize our resources and prove resilience in the situation, not reacting and not thinking of consequences. It is easier to act in passion than it is to act with knowledge and forethought. We need to respond by looking at each option and considering what will happen when the other player has the upper hand once more.

The ball is in our court, and somewhere there is balance between political chess and our need to release and reflect. My heart goes out to every person who is left without, be it the loss of a person, the loss of security in our nation, or a loss of hope. We must be strong and not forget what the fabric of our lives and our unity is made of.

Melissa G. Marchese, freshman

### Let me start of this email by saying,

my prayers and thoughts go out to all people touched in anyway by these horrific events that have taken place. I view this tragedy not only as an act of terrorism, but a obvious sign of a need for change in the American government. Yes what happened was terrible and nothing can justify the slaughtering of the innocent. But it is human nature to come out swinging when pushed to a certain extent. We suppose that the "nation-state" acts in terms of the "national interest". And surprise, surprise! "National interest" becomes a defense of the existence of the "nation-state" and of the way it operates. So-called "national interest" is more than just partly responsible for the continuation and regeneration of a system that exists on exploitation and the screwing over of human rights. A small, not terribly well known band, propagandhi

### These words strike way to close to home in a situation such as this.

Is this attack the result of pure hatred, indeed that is logical, but aren't we as a country to blame indirectly? There are several ways to react to the situation at hand. I think we need to take a step back and look at ourselves, to try and keep bureaucracy from getting in the way of our priorities. I mean absolutely no harm by this, I am in shock myself and trying to find answers in the mess that interrupted my world on September 11th, 2001.

Once again, I'd like to say my thoughts and prayers are with the people involved in this tragedy in any way.

Brent Kintzer, sophomore

### This was bound to happen. The US

needs to be more heavy-handed in dealing with terrorism. Every time in the past that an incident has occurred, the US has done nothing but expose innocent, arrogant surprise and shout "Hey, that's not nice! Don't do that!" Again we are surprised that something so dire could occur. The loss of lives is terrible, but even more depressing is that this could have been prevented, had we reacted to previous attacks, and that it takes this much of a loss to bring the US to reaction.

Robert Hartzog, freshman

**I think this is a grave reality** of what our world has come to. We live like kings, pretending that we're living in some sort of Disneyland. Someone wants us to think twice. A very sick someone with enough self-righteousness to kill people to prove his point. No matter the reasons, the worth, or the degree to which someone is obsessed, the act of murder does nothing more than prove one's own insanity.

Rich W.

### I am angered by the wanton cruelty

that these acts of terrorism represent. I am also shocked by the scenes of Palestinian children as young as 10 years of age rejoicing alongside their elders over the deaths of thousands of human beings. It enrages me to realize that the world is passing on a deep disrespect for human life to its children. As long as that practice continues, there will never be peace in civilization.

Cassandra M. Newman, sophomore

### CAMPUS COMPLAINTS

#### I just can't believe that classes were carried on as if nothing ever happened.

Being that most of Mary Washington's students are from Virginia and the New York/New Jersey area it is obvious that students have relatives and friends that were caught in this tragedy. Students need time to get in touch with family and friends to make sure things are alright at home.

Sage Shaw, sophomore

#### First of all, in the aftermath of this great tragedy when everyone is looking for someone to blame, we must remember the Oklahoma City bombing. It was one of our own. Even if the attacks were committed by someone of Arab/Muslim ethnicity, we cannot by any means let it effect the way we treat other Americans of this descent. We cannot let our fears escalate as they did after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, when we imprisoned thousands of people of Asian descent, even if they were United States citizens, simply because of what they looked like or where their grandparents came from.

Secondly, I am a student from Woodbridge, Virginia, an area that is largely populated by military personnel. I was very upset that our campus did not cancel classes much earlier. We had to sit in class and count the seconds while our fellow Americans died. We were forced to attend lectures that are so meaningless compared to this great tragedy. How can we sit through classes Wednesday with the possibility that our missing loved ones are dead.

It is ridiculous to think that we can focus on our studies when our country is reeling from this terrible attack. To think that our school's priorities lie with the books instead of with the students. We are human beings, we are Americans, we are our country. We have been attacked. Our Constitution has been attacked. Our way of life has been attacked. Freedom has been attacked. But Principles of Macro Economics is far more important than the thousands of Americans and others who lost their lives.

Whether we knew anyone hurt or not, as Americans we all lost a great deal today. Even if they were not from the DC metro area or Long Island, we all at some time today felt the pangs of fear that go with the death of a loved one. We all rushed back to our dorms, houses, or apartments to call home just to hear the voices of our parents, sisters, brothers, relatives, and friends; just





Senior Mike Fei donates blood to help victims of the terrorist attacks.

Joel Nelson/Bullet

## Students Volunteer Time, Blood

By SARAH LUCAS  
Features Editor

Mary Washington College student volunteers have helped with relief efforts after the terrorist attack Tuesday, giving blood and volunteering with rescue efforts.

According to Mabel Dempsey, secretary of the Health Center, about 25 students called and about 10 students stopped by asking for information on blood drives. The Health Center later sent out an email about a regularly scheduled blood drive at Fitness Equation in Central Park, held by the American Red Cross.

"I think it's wonderful that so many students wanted to give blood," said Associate Health Center Director Nancy Yates. "I think this [tragedy] affects everybody, so everybody's willing to play a part."

Out of the 122 people that the Red Cross registered yesterday at Central Park, 90 were able to give blood. More people than expected showed up because of the terrorist attacks. The blood drive Tuesday was supposed to be between 2 and 7 p.m., but the Red Cross had to start turning away people between 4 and 5 p.m. because of the overwhelming amount of blood donated.

"We turned away dozens, because it was a scheduled blood drive and we only had the bloodhound bus," said Paul Johnson, an administrative assistant at the Red Cross in Fredericksburg.

The bloodhound bus is a bus used to transport donated blood, and has a limited capacity.

The Red Cross also held blood drives yesterday and today at Spotsylvania Mall from noon to 6 p.m. A van sponsored by COAR drove students to and from Fitness Equation on Tuesday and to and from the blood drive at

Spotsylvania Mall yesterday. The Red Cross will also be on campus Sept. 26 for another blood drive, and will take as many people as possible. The blood will be taken to the New York Blood Center District.

The Red Cross did not have exact numbers of how many Mary Washington students showed up to give blood. They did, however, receive several phone calls from Mary Washington students asking about the blood drive, and said that "a good number" of Mary Washington students showed up to donate. Jaquie Alleva, director of Operations for the Central Virginia Blood Center, said that the large amount of students who showed up to give blood was "marvelous."

"It was just great that young people are that concerned these days when we face a national emergency," Johnson said.

Several students arrived at Fitness Equation to give blood, but were turned away because so much blood had already been donated.

Senior Preeti Jahagirdar was one of these. She was glad that the Health Center told students where to go to donate blood. She said a substantial number of Mary Washington students had arrived to give blood.

"There were a lot of people I recognized from MWC [at the blood drive], which was really good to see," Jahagirdar said.

Senior Jessica Treston was one of the students who gave blood yesterday at Spotsylvania Mall. She left for the mall at 11 a.m. and didn't return until 5 p.m. because of the long lines. Treston had actually never given blood before, but felt compelled to do it this time.

I didn't even think about it," Treston said. "Last night I made a decision and I just went. It seemed like it was

something that I should do."

Treston said that they had to start turning people away at about 4:00, since there were so many people there. Treston said she ran into many people who had taken off work or left work early to give blood. She said that one elderly woman was walking around giving people pieces of a cake she had baked.

"Even people who couldn't give blood were doing something," Treston said.

Some students were much closer to the tragedy than those who gave blood. Senior John Ramirez traveled to Washington, D.C. with the rescue squad on Tuesday to help with the rescue efforts.

Ramirez, a biology major who is pre-med, started volunteering with the Fredericksburg rescue squad last winter to gain some medical experience. He rode an ambulance with a four-person crew to the Pentagon, arriving at about 1:30 p.m. By the time they arrived, most people who had been inside the Pentagon had already been taken to the hospital, but their group was told to stand by because of the possibility that firemen might get injured or that more of the building might collapse.

"It was frustrating for us," Ramirez said. "We didn't get to do a whole lot."

Ramirez's group was about 70 yards from the impact area. Other rescue workers came from everywhere from Lake of the Woods to Arlington County, and salvation army workers had food available for them.

"It was just really awesome to see everybody working together," Ramirez said.

While he was there, Ramirez talked to another volunteer who was also a reporter. She arrived at the scene earlier and actually saw burn victims and smoke inhalation victims. She said that anyone still in the building was probably dead, which Ramirez found frustrating.

"Just being there was really unreal," Ramirez said. "It's right in front of you, but I couldn't believe it."

When he returned, Ramirez was happy to hear about the on-campus vigil, the overwhelming turnout for the blood drive and the other ways in which Mary Washington College students showed their support.

"It was awesome to hear about what happened on campus," Ramirez said. "I felt like everyone wanted to do something."

Another student who volunteered with the rescue squad is senior Katie Long. Long is a biology major who has volunteered with the rescue squad since January of 2000 and wants to be a physician's assistant. She was a little nervous while on her way to D.C.

"Rescue personnel can be secondary targets," Long said. "But I wasn't too concerned. That's what we were there to do and we did it."

Long was also frustrated that the group didn't get to help more than they did, but was also glad to hear about all the students who gave blood when she returned to campus.

"I think everyone should be really proud of the way they handled themselves, and responded to the need for blood," Long said.

## Returning To Normal?

By JULIE STANTSKI  
Scene Editor

Students and faculty alike are trying to return to a state of normalcy on campus by attending classes and performing their day-to-day functions in the midst of national tragedy.

"We haven't returned to a normal state," senior Amanda Snyder said. "We're just going through the motions. I slept through my first class."

Many students echoed Snyder's lack of enthusiasm for returning to classes after such a tragic event, including junior Ian Nicoll.

"I emailed all of my professors and told them I wouldn't be attending class," Nicoll said.

Senior Abbey Browne agreed.

"It feels unreal," Browne said. "It's ridiculous. We all just sit in class, not knowing what to say."

Though some professors cancelled classes, others pressed on, devoting their entire class to a discussion on the students' feelings after the attack or completely ignoring the issue altogether.

Senior Brandy Thomas' professors addressed the tragedy in different ways.

"It's awkward because some professors feel they need to address the issue, but if they do it's awkward, and if they don't address it it's like a pink elephant is in the room," senior Brandy Thomas said.

Sophomore Cameron Rohrkemper agreed that classes today were uncomfortable for students and faculty alike.

"Some professors address the situation for about five minutes and then say, 'Okay, now back to selectively permeable membranes,'" she said. "There's just no way to address this horrible situation."

For most students, this was their first encounter with a terrorist attack. One that will be marked indelibly on their minds, much like the Pearl Harbor attack was for older generations. Junior Steve Mory believes that this attack exceeds those in the past.

"This is worse than Pearl Harbor," Mory said. "I can't understand how people can wander around saying, 'This is nothing.' I want to go over to them and ask them if they're Americans."

Mory believed that this act will define this entire generation.

"This is like asking your parents where they were when Kennedy was shot," he said. "This is what future generations are going to read about in their history books."

Michele Swers, professor of Political Science, talked about the necessary actions that need to be taken by the White House in order to regroup as a nation.

"This is harder than the attack on Pearl Harbor because we don't know who did it," Swers said. "The nation needs to come together as we did during that attack. Bush needs to maintain the appearance of unity and make the public feel safe."

The issue of safety seemed to plague many students, as the college is only 40 miles south of

the downtown D.C. area. Junior Laura Gionfriddo said that some of her sense of safety was gone after the attacks.

"Last night I heard a low flying plane while I was trying to sleep and felt that I wasn't safe anymore," Gionfriddo said. "Although I do feel safe in my home, a military plane overhead scares me."

Students agreed that a strong, unified nation is needed in this time of crisis.

"It is important to return to normalcy because it shows we are a strong nation and will not lay down for attacks," Rohrkemper said. "Situations like this stress the human psyche and spirit."

Junior Beth Mills felt that the nation needed to remain a strong power, no matter what the outcome of these attacks lead to.

"Unfortunately, I feel that violence begets violence," Mills said. "So many people were upset by yesterday's events, so many lives affected in the worst possible way, that we need to unify and send out a strong message that we will not tolerate terrorism."

Nicoll, an international affairs major, believes that President Bush's power is being underrated by the public right now.

"People are wrong if they think we won't attack [the terrorists] because Bush is in the White House," Nicoll said.

Most people believed that this attack helped to refocus America's attention on being a unified country as opposed to just being many individuals living on America's soil.

"Two days ago my biggest problem was failing Spanish," Thomas said. "This attack just proved how much we focus on the trivial things in life rather than living life itself."

## Students Share Stories Of Discovery

By OSASI AIRAHVERBE  
Assistant Sports Editor

On Tuesday morning, Bushnell Hall resident Nicole McCarthy woke up at 8:40. Anticipating another mundane day of classes and campus activities, she began her daily routine. She was not expecting a national disaster, which led to a roller coaster of emotions and a day full of uncertainties.

"I was eating frosted flakes when the Today Show cut to footage of the World Trade Center," McCarthy said.

McCarthy, like many of the students on campus found out about the disaster through the television. Only a few minutes after the first plane crashed into the northernmost of the twin towers, television stations began to broadcast full coverage of the event.

Dr. William Kemp, chairperson of the Department of English, Linguistics and Speech, sent a mass email informing the campus that he had made arrangements for the televisions in Chandler 201 and 304 to be available for footage until at least 3:30 p.m.

McCarthy went to room 201 in Chandler after her 9:30 a.m. class, where she was informed through the television that the twin towers had fallen and that a plane had also crashed into the Pentagon.

"I think the majority [of the students] stayed in their rooms and watched," said sophomore Brian Reagan. Reagan said that when he and his roommate turned on the television, the northernmost of the two World Trade Center towers had fallen and the other one was on fire.

"About five minutes later, the other tower just collapsed and I stood there speechless. I couldn't believe my eyes," Reagan said.

"After I came back from my theatre class, everyone told me to turn on the news," sophomore Kimberly Williams said. When she got to her room, Williams' roommate was already watching.

"It was so surreal, it seemed like a really bad dream," she added.

Some students didn't find out about the disaster until they were en route to their morning classes or after them.

"A friend told me about it in Jepson right before my 9:30 class," junior Alex Escobar said. "Then on my way back to Bushnell, I saw people crying and worried and by the time I got back to the dorm, I knew it was worse than I had imagined."

Sophomore Ryan Butts found out about the catastrophe while passing by the television at the Eagle's Nest, where a large group of students had gathered.

"At first I was thinking that the people need to move out of my way, and then when I was walking out, I glanced at the TV and saw that someone had crashed into the World Trade Center," Butts said. She also said that her teacher allowed the class to watch coverage of the event during class.

Junior Abdulaziz Youssif, who worked at the help desk from noon to 1 p.m., said that a huge crowd of about 15 to 20 people had gathered in front of the television at the campus center.

"There were so many people that you could barely

walk past them all to reach the desk," he said.

Other students found out about the disaster from their peers, either in person or on instant messenger.

"I found out at 9:05 from someone in my building who came out of their room shocked," sophomore Asha Merzazada said.

Merzazada, who is from Northern Virginia and lives eight miles from the Pentagon, went back to her home to make sure her family was safe. Before she made her way back to Mary Washington College, she went to see the Pentagon building.

"It smelled very smoky and burnt and there were so many police officers," Merzazada said. "We couldn't see the plane but we just saw thick black smoke."

Erin Enzweiler, a sophomore whose father works near the Pentagon, said that she found out about the disaster from her friend over instant messenger.

"My friend sent an IM that said 'Oh my gosh Erin, we are being attacked!'," Enzweiler said. Enzweiler immediately tried to get a hold of her family but the phones weren't working.

Enzweiler found out that the day before the disaster, her father was in a room on the west side of the Pentagon, the part of the building where the plane crashed.

"If the Pentagon was attacked yesterday, my dad might be dead," Enzweiler said.

Some students who were in class while the disaster was unfolding were not fully informed of the event until later in the afternoon.

"A girl in my English class said something about planes crashing but I didn't pick up where they crashed," Milimo Thindwa, a freshman, said. "So I didn't get the full story until 12:30."

Thindwa said that his initial reaction was hoping that his father, who works in Washington, was not there or on any of those flights.

"Then I saw the plane crash into the tower. That's when I was shocked," he said.

Another means by which students received information about the tragedy was through the internet.

"I got up and went to the Yahoo! home page and I saw the headline 'Trade Center Attacked' but it didn't hit me," sophomore Allan Aumento said.

Aumento said that about an hour later, his Residence Assistant told him to turn on the news.

"I saw it on TV and that's when it struck me," Aumento said. "This was real and I was looking at it."



Julienne Gomez/Bullet

Students watch T.V. in the Campus Center as the national tragedy unfolds throughout the day.